

Aziz has left France, ministry says

PARIS (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz has left France following medical treatment near the French capital, officials said Saturday. The officials declined to say when Mr. Aziz, who arrived on Oct. 14, left or for what condition he was treated. The French foreign ministry said last week the decision to allow in Mr. Aziz, one of President Saddam Hussein's closest associates, was a humanitarian gesture which did not reflect a policy change for Paris which has no ties with Iraq. But officials were clearly nervous after the influential daily Le Monde said the Iraqi leader's visit "raises numerous questions" and reported Mr. Aziz was well enough to dine out at a well-known Lebanese restaurant in Paris. French state television on Saturday interviewed Dr. Louis Albrand of a medical centre near Evry outside Paris who said Mr. Aziz underwent tests and received prescribed medicines for an ailment which he declined to identify. French oil companies have held exploratory talks with Iraq and an Iraqi opposition group charged last week that Mr. Aziz planned high-level meetings to grant oil concessions to the French in Iraq. Visiting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat denied at a press conference on Friday that he met Mr. Aziz during his stay.

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Arafat leaves France

PARIS (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat flew out of Paris Saturday at the end of a 48-hour visit in which he met France's president and prime minister. Mr. Arafat was accompanied by his wife Suha on a flight bound for Tunis, airport officials said. His talks with President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur focused on the implementation of the Israeli-PLO autonomy agreement and French economic aid, government officials said.

PLO resumes paying pensions

SIDON (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation resumed paying pensions to fighters and families of dead guerrillas of its mainstream Fatah group in Lebanon Saturday, Palestinian sources said. They said the PLO leadership, which had halted the payments seven months ago because of a financial crisis, has wired the sum of \$450,000 to cover salaries for the past three months.

Sudanese rebel leaders meet in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Sudan's two leading opposition groups meeting in Washington have agreed on a plan to end hostilities but stopped short of signing an accord, according to a congressional panel. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the Sudan People's Liberation Army were invited for the talks by House of Representatives Africa Subcommittee Chairman Harry Johnson, according to a statement issued by the panel. The opposition leaders, Jüß Garang and Riek Machar, agreed on an eight-point plan to resolve their differences peacefully and unite against Khartoum's government forces. No accord was signed, however, as neither leader would relinquish the position as the sole opposition chief but they did agree to meet again before Nov. 15. Under-Secretary of State for African Affairs George Moose also attended the meeting, the first between the two warring factions in two years.

Shelling duels, SLA militiamen wounded

MARIJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas and Israeli-affiliated militia gunners duelled using howitzers and mortars in South Lebanon Saturday. Security sources said three militiamen were wounded. The sources said the 90-minute barrage broke out at 5 p.m. (1500 GMT) when Hizbollah fighters shelled an outpost manned by Israeli-affiliated South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen. They said three SLA militiamen were wounded in the initial guerrilla barrage after which SLA gunners responded with howitzers.

Immigrant stabs Jewish militant

TEL AVIV (R) — An ultra-nationalist Jewish settlement leader was stabbed and seriously wounded Saturday when he questioned the Jewishness of a neighbour, a newcomer to Israel from the former Soviet Union, settlers said. They said the immigrant drew a knife and stabbed David Azeled, a leader of the anti-Arab Kahane Hui movement, in the abdomen, eye, back, neck and hand after Mr. Azeled told him his family was not Jewish. The immigrant was detained by police. The stabbing occurred near a synagogue in the settlement of Tapuah, a main base of Kahane Hui.

Fahd meets Bhutto

JEDDAH (AFP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia held talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto here Saturday, the Saudi news agency (SPA) reported. Ms. Bhutto, who arrived in Jeddah late Friday from Cyprus, made a short pilgrimage to Mecca earlier. Officials in her delegation said Ms. Bhutto was due to leave Saudi Arabia for Pakistan late Saturday.

Israel to free 760 prisoners today

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL HAS agreed to release 760 Palestinian detainees Sunday, comprising the sick, women, children below 18 and men over 50, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said in Cairo Saturday.

The PLO information office said those released would be the first of among more than 11,000 detainees in Israeli prisons.

It said the PLO and Israel agreed in talks at the Egyptian resort Taba on a timetable for the "release of all Palestinian detainees in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem."

Saturday's PLO statement said a Dec. 13 deadline was agreed to complete the mass releases.

The Taba negotiations involve one of three committees established by a PLO-Israel framework agreement for peace signed in Washington on Sept. 13 to work out implementing procedures.

The second round ended Thursday, and a third is to start Tuesday. Israel has released no details of agreements made at Taba. A communiqué released after Thursday's negotiating session confirmed details of the types of prisoners to be released in the first group.

And on Saturday, an Israeli army source in occupied Jerusalem said the releases would start "at the beginning of next week." The source explained that as Sunday or Monday.

The PLO statement in Cairo confirmed that those released would belong to all Palestinian factions, including Hamas.

Nabil Shaath, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's political adviser who heads the Palestinians' Taba delegation, told

reporters during a break in talks Thursday that bargaining bogged down over PLO demands that even people accused of murder be released. Several Hamas people face such charges.

On Saturday, the PLO said: "The Israeli side did not want to release any prisoners before Dec. 13, but Shaath insisted that holding prisoners is illegal in the first place and they should be released immediately."

Dec. 13 is the date specified in the Washington agreement for Israel's occupying forces to begin withdrawing from Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. The process is to last four months, after which the two areas will be under Palestinian authority.

The PLO said two sides disagreed at Taba over the meaning of withdrawal. It "means for us total withdrawal and Palestinian control over all aspects of life there including security," the statement said.

But Israel wants to maintain security over Jewish settlements and free movement for Israeli troops in the transferred areas. The PLO said Saturday that if Israel plans to use settlements as a reason to maintain control over Gaza and Jericho, "these settlements should be dismantled and their people leave."

Dr. Shaath met on Friday with Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador to Cairo, an official at the information office said. He said Mr. Pelletreau asked for the meeting to be briefed on developments at Taba.

As U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, Mr. Pelletreau was the first U.S. official to hold formal talks with the PLO. They started in 1988.

The Americans halted the series of discussions because the PLO refused to denounce a raid on an Israeli beach in early 1990.

Alert in Gaza

Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement has put activists on high alert in the occupied Gaza Strip, where three leading members have been assassinated in the six weeks since Israel and the PLO signed the peace agreement.

Radio Monte Carlo Saturday quoted a Fatah source as saying that there would be a deployment of Palestinian guards in the next two days in Gaza Strip in accordance with a decision taken by the Palestinian leadership.

An internal Fatah memorandum obtained by Reuters Saturday ordered activists to the "maximum grade of fighting readiness" in response to what it called the "emergency circumstances and the serious conspiracy woven against our movement."

The memorandum called on Fatah supporters to come forward quickly with information that could prevent further incidents.

The third assassinated Fatah leader, Asaad Saftawi, was buried in Gaza on Friday, one day after masked gunmen shot him dead in broad daylight. Thousands of Gazans went to the funeral.

Some Palestinians have blamed the killings on conflict within Fatah, the movement which has led Palestinian support for the PLO-Israeli agreement.

But Mr. Arafat said Friday

(Continued on page 10)

IAF says prime minister did little to allay its fears

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) has protested to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali what it alleges are government actions aimed at limiting its chances of winning seats in the next parliamentary elections on Nov. 8, but the meeting did little to narrow the gap between the two sides, IAF Secretary General Ishaq Al Farhan said Saturday.

At a meeting with Dr. Majali Thursday, the IAF protested the transfer of "tens" of civil servants who support the front from their places of work to other governorates and a Ministry of Interior ban on holding public rallies, according to Dr. Farhan.

He said the prime minister gave him no assurances that the government would stop what the front claims are measures targeting it.

"We need to examine the situation more clearly and be very cautious," Dr. Farhan told the Jordan Times Saturday.

Sources told the Jordan Times that Dr. Majali stood firm against the IAF protests and reiterated government statements that his Cabinet is acting within the limits of the law.

Dr. Farhan said the IAF is growing more "uneasy" with the alleged government campaign against it.

"The government is intensifying this campaign step by step. We feel uneasy about the whole situation," Dr. Farhan said.

Similar charges against the government were Saturday levelled by two leftist parties.

The leftist Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party and the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, who also charged

that the government's actions have given reason to doubt that the elections will be conducted freely and fairly (see page 10).

Dr. Farhan said the government over the last few days "arbitrarily" transferred tens of civil servants who support it from their places of work in different governorates to other areas in the country in what he described as an attempt to weaken the front's performance in the elections.

Eleven supporters of the front employed by the Ministry of Education in Tafleeh were earlier last week transferred to other governorates in what the government insists is a legal procedure justified by the law which says government employees should not be involved in election campaigns.

The transfer of the employees was carried out in accordance with "article 64 of the Election Law which states... that government public institutions and local authorities employees are banned from campaigning for any candidate."

Minister of Interior Salamah Hamad Thursday told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Dr. Farhan said the front strongly differs with the government's interpretation of the law that civil servants' political activities should be restricted to casting their votes.

Though he alleges the front has been done "a great injustice" by the government, Dr. Farhan said the "government's pressure on the front is still tolerable."

However, he said, the front, the largest organised political group in the Kingdom, will reconsider its decision to contest the polls if the government forces confrontation upon it.

"We still believe that the only assurance (that the elections will be fair) is the pledge of His Majesty," Dr. Farhan

said. Dr. Farhan also cited the government's rejection to grant the front permission to hold campaigning rallies as an example of the government's effort to limit the front.

Dr. Farhan said the front will not compromise its right to present its views to the voters through public meetings and rallies and will look for ways to go around the ban.

"We will hold meetings but we will not call them rallies," he said.

The Ministry of Interior has enforced its legal right to ban parliamentary candidates from holding public rallies in state-owned sites. No such decision was taken in the 1989 elections.

The Islamic Front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, is fielding 36 candidates in the country's 20 voting constituencies. And while Dr. Farhan would only say that the front is working to ensure the election of the largest number of its candidates, independent observers say the front will not be able to get more than 20 seats in the Lower House of Parliament.

IAF leaders have said the front is not seeking a majority in the House in order to allow other political groups a representation in Parliament while observers say the IAF does not want to dominate the house because of what they call the negative political consequences of such an eventuality on Islamists.

In the event of the IAF obtaining a majority in the House, it would run the risk of provoking confrontation with the government if it decided to push for the implementation of its political programme of opposing the peace process and the IMF-prescribed adjustment programme, observers say.

(Continued on page 10)



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives a message from President Ali Abdullah Saleh. At right is Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Abdul Karim Iryani (left) who delivered to him a message from President Ali Abdullah Saleh. (Petra photo)

King receives Yemeni message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh dealing with Yemeni-Jordanian relations.

The message was delivered at the Royal Court by Yemeni Minister of Development and Planning Abdul Karim

Al Iryani in the presence of Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisor Yanal Hikmat and Yemen's Ambassador to Jordan Ali Abu Lahoom.

Upon his arrival earlier Saturday, Dr. Iryani said the message to the King was part of constant coordination be-

tween the two countries.

Referring to the recent flurry of political activities in the Middle East and Jordan's role, Dr. Iryani said that Amman was the "focal point in the Arab-Israeli peace process and it was natural that it serves as a meeting place for various contacts pertaining to peace."

Abstentions scuttle meeting of Arab Boycott of Israel Office

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The indefinite postponement of a meeting of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office in Damascus scheduled to be held Sunday came after eight Arab countries indicated that they would not attend it, Jordanian officials and Arab diplomatic sources said Saturday.

A senior member of the Jordanian cabinet said the Kingdom was not among the eight, but reiterated that Amman's position on the 45-year-old Arab trade boycott of Israel remained unchanged.

"Our position was made very clear by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan during his visit to Washington" late last month and early this month, said Jawad Al Anani, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs.

After an Oct. 1 meeting at the White House with President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Crown Prince Hassan said it would be "economic suicide" for the Arabs to lift the boycott of Israel without gaining anything in return.

"To those who have said the boycott is economic warfare, I would say removing the boycott is economic suicide," the Crown Prince told an Oct. 2 press conference in Washington.

One of the key themes during last week's Middle East visit by U.S. troubleshooter Dennis Ross was advancing Washington's quest for an end to the boycott.

Dr. Anani said Mr. Ross raised the issue during his talks here Tuesday/Wednesday. The U.S. envoy "explained the American position," Dr. Anani said. "The Jordanian position is known to Washington already," he noted.

Addressing a press confer-

ence after the talks, Mr. Ross said that Washington viewed "restrictions on economic activity are inconsistent with trying to begin to develop economic cooperation and also trying to foster economic development itself."

Dr. Anani told the Jordan Times Saturday that Washington had raised "various ideas and avenues" of ending the boycott. He declined to elaborate.

Arab diplomats said Washington had informed some of its Arab allies in the Gulf region and North Africa that a meeting of the Arab Boycott Office at this point in time would not be helpful to the two-year-old Middle East peace process.

"The idea was that the (Oct. 24) Damascus meeting would have led to a hardening of the Arab stand at a time when Washington was seeking a softening," said a senior Arab diplomat in Amman.

The diplomat was referring to expectations that countries like host Syria, whose media have called for stricter enforcement of the embargo, Libya, which opposes the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord and insists that the Arab League adopt a ban on all Arab contacts with Israel, and Sudan, another critic of the Middle East peace process, would have pushed for adding more international firms to the boycott list during Sunday's meeting.

Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, indicated during a hearing before a House of Representatives subcommittee on Friday that Washington could have been instrumental in the postponement of the meeting.

Mr. Djerejian told the committee that Washington was continuing its efforts to lift the boycott through various

means. "Some of (the Arab countries) are very reluctant to do so for the obvious political reasons, but we're urging upon them that this is a new day, this is a new era," he said.

Pro-Israeli congressmen have been focusing their attention on lifting the boycott and pressing the Clinton administration to pressure Arab states into dropping the embargo, which Israel says has cost it \$45 billion in lost business opportunities.

Mr. Djerejian told the House panel that the administration had raised its "objections to an Arab League boycott meeting, especially one that would add American companies to a boycott list."

Grilled by congressmen on what were the prospects for Sunday's Damascus meeting, Mr. Djerejian disclosed that Washington had "made its views known, and we have reason to believe that certain countries will not attend such a meeting, if, indeed, it even takes place in the Arab World."

The Arab League members which opposed Sunday's meeting of the boycott office were believed to be the PLO, Egypt and the six Gulf states grouped in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Egypt, which has signed the Arab World's only peace treaty with Israel, no longer enforces the boycott while the Gulf states have relaxed their adherence to the embargo.

The PLO, which signed a historic accord with Israel on Sept. 13 on self-rule for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, has said that while it will not advocate an immediate end to the embargo it would not support tightening it either.

Majali to address UNESCO on peace

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Saturday left for Paris for a brief visit during which he will address a general meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) about peace in the Middle East.

"I have received an invitation to the UNESCO general conference, which starts Sunday, to speak about peace since I served for sometime as head of the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace negotiations," Dr. Majali said in a departure statement.

"Peace is of paramount importance for UNESCO because the organisation has been established on principles that advocate peace," he added.

The UNESCO meeting will present a good opportunity for the delegates to hear the Jordanian views concerning peace, he said.

Dr. Majali will deliver a general speech about peace and Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Omari will deliver Jordan's official address to the UNESCO.

Dr. Majali said he would seize the opportunity of being in Paris to contact French officials.

"Most likely, there will be some arrangements for me to meet with French officials at the highest level to discuss Jordanian-French issues as well as the question of peace," he said.

The prime minister said he would also exchange views with Arab and non-Arab ministers participating in the UNESCO conference.

On preparations for the Nov. 8 elections in Jordan, Dr. Majali said the process was accelerating. "We hope that this acceleration would be beneficial although one could encounter pitfalls," he said.

He expressed satisfaction over the turnout of the citizens to collect voting cards. He noted that in five days more than half a million cards were distributed.

"The more voters turn out on election day to cast ballots the better the representation of the various sectors in the next Parliament is, and this is of paramount importance," he said.

"Fortunately most of the candidates are presenting moderate and reasonable slogans reflecting hope in the future," he said.

"I have noticed that most of the slogans look to the future and not ruminating the past."

Seeing off the prime minister at the airport were Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar, who will be acting premier in the absence of Dr. Majali, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani, Minister of State for Legal Affairs Khaled Zou'bi, Minister of State Ahmad Akailah and senior government officials.

Hurd wants Syria, Israel to seek accord

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd urged speedy resumption of Syrian-Israeli peace talks Saturday to break a deadlock in stalled negotiations.

Addressing a news conference after a three-hour meeting with President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus, Mr. Hurd said Britain stood ready to facilitate talks in any way that did not complicate the U.S. initiative.

Asked what was needed to make a breakthrough in the two-year-old negotiations, Mr. Hurd said: "A resumption of the Israeli-Syrian bilateral (talks) as soon as that may be so that the peace concept of total peace for total withdrawal

can be analysed and agreed."

Mr. Hurd said Syria had reiterated its commitment to total peace for total withdrawal but had expressed "worries" that Israel was not committed.

"What was emphasised to me from the Syrian side was a Syrian commitment to the bilateral talks although there was some worry that the Israeli side was not so much committed. Their worry needs to be removed so each side (can) see the other as serious," Mr. Hurd said.

Israel demands an explanation of what Syria means by total peace before it accepts Damascus's call for total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The two made no tangible

progress in 11 rounds of talks and Syria threatened to boycott the 12th round if there is no movement.

"Once there is a renewed understanding on each side that the other is serious then the talks can proceed and an agreement can be reached," Mr. Hurd said.

Mr. Hurd noted that Syria's interest is in "total withdrawal" while Israel's is "total peace."

"Each side will have to show some flexibility in defining what the two halves of this phrase mean... and they need to get together as soon as may be, in order to continue that discussion," he said.

Syrian presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh told

Reuters that President Assad welcomed Britain's readiness to play an active role in the peace process.

"Hurd expressed Britain's interest in helping the peace process and its belief that a solution in the region should be comprehensive. He expressed his understanding of the Syrian stand and its commitment to a comprehensive settlement," Mr. Kourieh said.

Earlier, Mr. Hurd had two hours of talks with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara.

Mr. Hurd said his talks with Syrian leaders covered ways of promoting bilateral cooperation which he said had developed steadily since the restoration of diplomatic ties in 1990.

Ghali brushes aside Somali visit protests

NAIROBI (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali brushed aside Friday the significance of protests that marred his Somalia visit and said the world body had played a positive role in the country.

"In 95 per cent of the territory, peace prevails, security prevails," Dr. Ghali said on his return to Kenya after a one-day trip to Somalia.

"We've been able to restore hope for the population."

Pressed by journalists about the demonstrations mounted against his visit in both Baidoa and the Somali capital Mogadishu, Dr. Ghali replied he had met such protests before, including the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

"My first responsibility is with the staff (of the United Nations)," he said, adding: "I have to show my solidarity with them."

Hundreds of angry supporters of fugitive Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideded held rallies and erected barricades of burning tyres while Dr. Ghali made a two-hour visit to Mogadishu airport Friday.

Earlier in Baidoa, 300 kilometres north-west of Mogadishu, the secretary-general's arrival triggered scuffles between Aideded supporters protesting his visit and a rival group who had turned out to welcome him, U.N. officials said.

The U.S. government had warned Dr. Ghali that his visit could trigger protests similar to those during his last trip in January.

Questioned on Gen. Aideded, Dr. Ghali told the press conference that all options were open: "My purpose is to achieve dialogue... you have to speak to everyone to avoid confrontation."

"I have no personal feeling for or against (Aideded)," he added.

The secretary-general said that what the United Nations had achieved in Baidoa, where thousands of Somalis were starving last year, was a "success story."

"What we have done in Somalia is positive," he said, adding that he had discussed remaining the town with its elders, who had accepted his suggestion of "New Baidoa."

Dr. Ghali spent several hours in Baidoa where he visited a school and an orphanage, and was welcomed by Somali elders, U.N. officials said.

In June the U.N. Security

Council passed a resolution calling for the arrest of those responsible for the killing of 24 Pakistani U.N. troops. The U.N. mission in Somalia promptly issued an arrest warrant for Gen. Aideded and offered a reward for information leading to his capture.

But attempts by U.N. forces to capture Gen. Aideded have failed, with some 70 foreign troops dying in clashes with armed Somalis since June.

Subsequently U.N. officials negotiated with members of Gen. Aideded's Somali National Alliance (SNA) in a bid to lure it into a peace process.

Republicans seek probe

Congressman Newt Gingrich and five opposition Republican colleagues Friday called for an investigation into whether the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) believed there was a serious threat to American troops in Somalia before 18 died in a firefight three weeks ago.

The lawmakers asked Rep. Dan Glickman, Democratic chairman of the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, to determine if the CIA had filed a report foretelling the deadly Oct. 3-4 battle in Mogadishu.

They also asked Mr. Glickman to find out if the CIA had ever given such a report to top administration officials and the military.

The Boston Globe reported on Sept. 30 that a CIA report concluded that Gen. Aideded was "concentrating his forces in one part of the city, apparently with the aim of launching a major and politically debilitating attack on U.N. forces."

Eighteen U.S. troops died in the Mogadishu battle, more than 70 were wounded and at least one was captured. Chief Warrant Officer Michael Durant was later released by his captors.

The lawmakers noted that Mr. Glickman has said that intelligence may not have been given the priority it deserves.

"Even more troubling, however, is the possibility that our intelligence community possessed timely and accurate intelligence information on the danger to our forces, but failed to provide it to policymakers or to appropriate military leaders," the six Republicans said.

"Worse, it may have been provided to policymakers who either ignored it or failed to take it seriously," they said.

In June the U.N. Security

No more secret talks, PLO negotiator says

LONDON (R) — Ahmad Qoreia, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official who initiated a landmark deal with Israel in secret talks in Norway, said Friday there was no more need for clandestine negotiations.

"No more secret negotiations...now it is open," Qoreia, also known as Abu Ala, said when asked by reporters whether he was engaged in further behind-the-scenes talks with the Israelis.

Mr. Qoreia and an Israeli negotiator concluded the deal for Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in the dead of night in an upstairs room at a Norwegian Foreign Ministry building in central Oslo in August.

Israel and the PLO later announced that Norway had hosted 14 rounds of secret talks this year. A formal signing took place in Washington last month.

Mr. Qoreia, on the last leg of a European tour, said he discussed a planned visit to Britain by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in talks with Foreign Office ministers this week and a provisional date of mid-December was agreed.

"I think it will be in the middle of December that Chairman Arafat will be at that time available," said Mr. Qoreia, head of the PLO's Economics Department,

adding that this was discussed in talks on Thursday with Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg.

Mr. Qoreia, who visited France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and Spain and would be returning to PLO headquarters in Tunis at the weekend, said his talks with Mr. Hogg and Overseas Development Minister Baroness Chalker had been "constructive and positive."

He said he had briefed the ministers on the PLO's requirements for setting up self-rule authorities and had received promises of British support and aid, including technical assistance and training.

Mr. Qoreia said an initial \$600 million package of international aid for the first year of a Palestinian emergency programme would concentrate on infrastructure projects such as roads, water, sewerage, hospitals, schools and telecommunications.

He said the peace process would be taken forward in a series of meetings, including self-rule implementation talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabu, meetings starting in November of an economic committee, formal bilateral negotiations in Washington and a liaison committee being formed to discuss the return of an estimated 750,000 displaced Palestinians.

Mubarak to convey Arab views, seeks continued aid

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak, winding up a round of talks with Arab leaders, will give President Bill Clinton the latest Arab view of the Middle East peace process when the two meet Monday in Washington.

Mr. Mubarak's talks will concentrate on ways of implementing the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement and pushing forward the stalled Syrian and Lebanese negotiations with Israel, Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters.

In the past two weeks, Mr. Mubarak has met with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, Saudi King Fahd and PLO leader Yasser Arafat. Mr. Musa travelled to Jordan on Thursday for talks with His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Mubarak, whose country is the only Arab state at peace with Israel, has been acting as a mediator in Middle East negotiations.

As chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, Mr. Mubarak also wants to discuss the situation in Somalia, Mr. Musa said. He added Mr. Mubarak also will express Egypt's need for support in its economic reform programme.

On his way back to Cairo, Mr. Mubarak is due to hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand.

Mr. Mubarak, endorsed as head of state for another six years after a referendum this month, will meet President Clinton and what amounts to a roll call of congressional leaders as Egypt's \$2.2 billion aid package comes under budget pressure.

The Egyptian leader originally planned to visit Washington last month after attending the U.N. General Assembly in New York. He cancelled the trip to stay at home and mount an unprecedented campaign for the referendum in which he stood unchallenged.

test in the Lut desert.

The Iranians have a missile testing site at a large military complex at Shahrud, 320 kilometres east of Tehran.

That is linked to a monitoring facility south of Tabas, 400 kilometres southeast of Tehran, in Iran's Great Salt desert and near the site where the ill-fated U.S. attempt to rescue the Tehran embassy hostages came to grief in April 1980.

The Islamic republic is currently engaged in a major rearmament programme that has alarmed the United States and its regional allies.

It has been determined to build up its own force of medium-range missiles since the 1980-88 war, when Iranian morale suffered heavily from repeated Iraqi missile strikes on Tehran.

Iran began funding North Korean missile development in 1985, during the war with Iraq, and has continued bankrolling these programmes in exchange for production technology.

heads, but the Saudis say they will only carry conventional warheads of high explosive.

Tehran has reportedly negotiated the purchase of 150 No-Dong IS, which would also be able to carry nuclear or chemical warheads, Western experts say.

U.S. officials said last spring they believed North Korea could be ready to deliver No-Dong IS to Iran by the end of this year, sooner than previously estimated.

The new timetable followed a visit to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, by a high-level Iranian military delegation led by Brigadier-General Hussein Mantegh, commander of the Revolutionary Guards Corps missile force.

The delegation, which arrived in Pyongyang March 28, included senior missile experts, diplomatic sources reported.

Al Sharq Al Awsat, a Saudi Arabian-owned daily, quoted its sources in Tehran as saying that a North Korean military delegation is now in Iran preparing for the new No-Dong 2

Chad says coup attempt thwarted

N'DJAMENA, Chad (Agencies) — The government imposed an overnight curfew on the capital Friday after gunfire broke out as an opposition leader attempted to mount an attack, a presidential spokesman said.

Abbas Kouty and his supporters failed in their attempt and Mr. Kouty was killed, reports said.

It was not immediately clear if any major fighting was involved. The spokesman said he did not know how many fighters were loyal to Mr. Kouty or if any were from the military.

Mr. Kouty, a former military chief of staff of President Idris Deby, was forced into exile last year but returned this summer after negotiations with the government, the spokesman said.

Chad, a north-central African nation of 5.5 million, has been repeatedly shaken by violence in recent months. A curfew was also ordered in August after ethnic clashes killed more than 100 people.

Mr. Deby has sought to maintain power despite formation of an interim government headed by Prime Minister Fidel Moungar since early this year. Mr. Deby seized power from Hissene Habre in December 1990.

Mr. Deby's soldiers were accused by Amnesty International in April of massacring more than 500 people in 2 years, 100 of them during that month alone. The government has since ordered an investigation, and trials in the latest killings.

Much of the violence centres on conflicts between Arab Muslim nomads of the north, where Mr. Deby comes from, and black Christian farmers of the south. Friction rose since a drought in 1974 forced nomads to move south from their arid pastures.

Residents reported shooting during Friday afternoon and said troops and tanks were on the streets but by evening the city was calm.

A government statement read on state radio said Mr. Kouty, who had signed a peace accord with the government only last week, died of wounds received in an exchange of fire with security forces trying to arrest him.

The statement said the government had learned of a coup plan by Mr. Kouty in time to prevent it. Mr. Kouty's companions had been arrested.

Several rebel groups in the impoverished, landlocked country are threatening the rule of Mr. Deby.

Mr. Kouty, a former close aide to Mr. Deby, returned from exile last month after signing a political peace accord in Libya with the Chadian government. The deal was brokered by the Libyan and Sudanese governments.

Mr. Deby criticised Prime Minister Moungar for allowing Mr. Kouty's return.

Last weekend Mr. Kouty signed a new accord with the government which legitimised his rebel group and enabled it to operate as a political party and merge its forces with the national army.

"The government reassures the population that everything will be done to save the democratic process," the statement said.

A national pro-democracy conference led to the formation of an interim government early this year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Qadhafi coup attempt reportedly confirmed

WASHINGTON (R) — The commander of Libya's forces in Chad attempted to overthrow Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi earlier this week, ABC news reported Friday. The commander was thwarted by Colonel Qadhafi's air force when he pushed toward the Libyan capital of Tripoli with armoured units from Chad, which borders on Libya, according to ABC. ABC also reported that 250 soldiers were killed and hundreds more taken prisoner. ABC's Pentagon correspondent attributed this information to unnamed sources and gave no further details. He did not identify by name the leader of the attempted coup. Western and Arab diplomats based in Tripoli told Reuters Thursday that rumours have circulated in Tripoli for days about some sort of incident in or near the central city of Misratah. They said there had since been arrests and house searches in Tripoli.

Morocco, Polisario to hold talks on Sahara

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Representatives of Morocco and the Guerrilla Polisario Front will hold direct talks here beginning Monday on the future of Western Sahara and a long-delayed referendum, the United Nations announced. The U.N. announcement said the talks would be open-ended, but did not give any specifics. The heads of the delegations were not announced. The special U.N. representative for Western Sahara, former Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, will attend as an observer. The first round of direct talks were held at Laayoune, in the Western Sahara, from July 17 to 19. Under a U.N. peace plan, a referendum was to be held last year, but it was delayed because of disagreements between Morocco and the Polisario rebels about voter lists and eligibility. Eventually, voters will be asked to choose either independence or union with Morocco. U.N. military observers are monitoring a ceasefire that took effect in 1991, but are unable to implement the entire peace plan because of various disagreements on the referendum and other issues. Guerrillas of the Polisario Front have been fighting Morocco for control of the largely desert region. Morocco annexed over 182,000 square kilometres of the land in 1976. Morocco accuses Algeria of backing the guerrillas.

Few leads in Satanic Verses shooting

OSLO (AP) — Police say they have few leads in the shooting of the Norwegian publisher of Salman Rushdie's the Satanic Verses but were attempting to trace three men. Publisher William Nygaard, 50, was shot three times in the back outside his home on Oct. 11. He was expected to recover completely. Oslo police offered a 100,000 kroner (\$14,000) reward for information about the attack. They told the Norwegian news agency NTB that an unusual kind of 44-calibre handgun ammunition was used to shoot Mr. Nygaard, and that all buyers of the 2,000 rounds sold in Norway were being checked. Police were also tracking three men seen near Mr. Nygaard's house at the time of the shooting. Police said they had no evidence linking the attack to the Satanic Verses, which the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran declared blasphemous in 1989. He also ordered the death of author Salman Rushdie and anyone connected with the book. Last week, the Iranian embassy denied allegations from Mr. Rushdie and others that Iran was responsible for the shooting. Foreign Minister Johan Jorgensen Holst on Thursday told parliament that he had summoned Iranian diplomats a day earlier to receive a note asking Iran to reject the death sentence and encourage Muslims and non-Muslims to obey the laws of their country of residence. "We cannot accept that this is about a religious matter as long as it affects the rights of people, including those living in our country," Mr. Holst told the parliament.

Kurdish rebels kill Turkish general

ANKARA (AP) — Heavy fighting broke out after separatist Kurdish guerrillas killed a Turkish brigadier general during an attack on a town in southeastern Turkey, news media reported. Gen. Bahattin Aydin, the regional military police commander, was shot dead Friday in the town of Lice, some 700 kilometres from the capital, the Anatolia news agency said. State television said the guerrillas fired on government buildings and military headquarters in the province of Diyarbakir. Gen. Aydin was the highest ranking military victim in the nine-year insurgency by the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK). The pro-guerrilla Kurdistan News Agency, based in Germany, quoted a guerrilla commander as saying government tanks and

artillery fired indiscriminately at buildings in Lice, causing hundreds of civilian casualties. The government declined to give any casualty figures. Independent press sources in the area, speaking on condition of anonymity, reported daylong battles and said many houses were burning.

U.S., Turkey say Iraq sanctions to stay

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Turkey said Friday international sanctions against Iraq must be maintained despite the damage to Turkey's economy from the trade embargo with Baghdad. The White House issued a joint U.S.-Turkish statement that followed an Oct. 15 meeting between President Bill Clinton and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. Turkey was Iraq's largest trading partner before the Gulf crisis and has lost an estimated \$300 million a year in transit fees since it closed two Iraqi oil export pipelines across its territory in August 1990. In her meeting with Mr. Clinton, Ms. Ciller appealed for help to offset the losses to Ankara's economy. Mr. Clinton replied that he wanted to help but without spending U.S. tax dollars. The statement made clear the United States was willing to do nothing more than "continue speedy discussion at both political and expert levels." The two leaders had directed senior-level delegations to meet and engage in a detailed review of Turkey's situation as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and its aftermath.

Egypt to open mission in South Africa

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt plans to open a diplomatic mission in South Africa next month as a first step towards establishing full diplomatic relations, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Friday. Egypt did not maintain diplomatic ties with South Africa previously because of Pretoria's apartheid policy. The mission will be headed by a senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry official, Mona Omar. Full diplomatic ties are expected to be established after South African multiracial elections planned for April 1994.

Israel to set up hi-tech farm in China

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel is to build a model farm in China to demonstrate the latest techniques in agriculture and irrigation, Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tzur said Friday. The details of the project will be worked out with his Chinese counterpart Liu Jiang who arrives on Wednesday for an official visit. Israel, which boasts world-leading expertise in desert farming, has already set up a similar project in Egypt and is looking for international aid money for the new scheme, Mr. Tzur told reporters.

Italy indignant over Algerian killings

ROME (R) — Italy said Friday it was outraged that three employees of an Italian firm had been kidnapped and were later found dead in Algeria. A Foreign Ministry statement said the Italian government was "indignant" over the deaths and called for tough punishment for those found responsible. The men, from Peru, Colombia and the Philippines, worked for the Milan-based Italian firm Abb Sae Sadelmi. They were seized by three gunmen near Taret, west Algeria, on Tuesday. A spokesman for the Italian embassy in Algeria said on Thursday that their bodies were found about 50 kilometres from where the men were abducted at gunpoint. They are the second group of foreigners to be kidnapped and found dead in the past month. In September, two Frenchmen were kidnapped and killed, also in west Algeria. Official Algerian sources said later that members of a previously unknown group called the United Company of Jihad were responsible for their deaths. The Frenchmen were the first foreigners to die in nearly two years of violence, mainly blamed on Muslim fundamentalists, in which more than 1,500 people have been killed.

Romanian president visits Yemen

DUBAI (R) — Romanian President Ion Iliescu arrived in Yemen for two days of talks on boosting economic cooperation, Gulf news agencies reported. Yemeni radio quoted Mr. Iliescu, who arrived in Sanaa on Friday, as saying that Romanian companies were already working with Yemeni firms to erect power lines. He also said Romania had "considerable experience in manufacturing equipment for the oil industry," according to a report on the radio monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Film: L'Elisir D'Amour
19:00 News in French
19:15 Fenetre Sur
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Thirty-something
22:00 News in English
22:20 Documentary
23:10 The Golden Palace

PRAYER TIMES

04:24 Fajr
05:41 (Sunrise) Duha
11:20 Dhuhur
14:29 'Asr
16:59 Maghreb
18:18 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637365
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teresian Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775251

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654952

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at different altitudes, and winds will be northerly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max, temp.

Amman 14 / 24

Aqaba 20 / 34

Deserts 12 / 30

Jordan Valley 21 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 34.2, Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Samir 615648
Dr. Farouq Nur 786680
Dr. Bahjat Badr 849362
Dr. Ahmad Kharis 881148
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636720
Yacoub pharmacy 644943
Shomoni pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Shuqari 246140

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Fawaz Hamdallah 903644

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192 621111 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Jordan Electricity Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Abla Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussien Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akikah Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malles, J. Amn 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 66171/4
Shamsani Hospital 845845
University Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666122/7
Al-Abul, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mubajrec 77101/3
Army, Marita 891611/15
Queen Abla Hospital 68240/9
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)905323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905360
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)906732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09) 909900

IRBID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)755553
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722273
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Agaba (RJ)
06:30 Damascus (RJ)
06:45 Jeddah (RJ)
06:50 Athens (RJ)
06:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:05 Doha (RJ)
07:10 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:15 London (RJ)
07:20 Athens (RJ)
07:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
07:30 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
07:35 Vienna (RJ)
07:40 Rome (RJ)
07:45 Madrid (RJ)
07:50 Geneva (RJ)
07:55 Vienna, Istanbul (RJ)
08:00 Agaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 Larnaca (CY)
12:30 Bahrain (GF)
13:30 Moscow (SU)
19:35 Cairo (MS)
19:50 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Agaba (RJ)
06:15 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
06:45 Tunis, Comblance (RJ)
06:50 Geneva (RJ)
06:55 Rome (RJ)
07:00 Vienna (RJ)
07:05 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
07:10 Athens (RJ)
07:15 Jeddah (RJ)
07:20 Athens (RJ)
07:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:30 Beirut (RJ)
07:35 Doha (RJ)
07:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:45 London (RJ)
07:50 Athens (RJ)
07:55 Frankfurt (RJ)
08:00 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
08:05 Vienna (RJ)
08:10 Rome (RJ)
08:15 Madrid (RJ)
08

Queen attends graduation ceremony of Rimoun Weaving Centre in Jerash

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday afternoon attended a graduation ceremony of 30 women graduates from the Rimoun Weaving Centre (RWC) in Jerash.

The Queen distributed certificates to the graduates, who had completed training in producing room-size carpets under the auspices of the Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC) of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

Queen Noor also toured the newly renovated rooms of the Rimoun Weaving Centre, which is operated by the JDTC and which was established in cooperation with the Rimoun Benevolent Society with funding from the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) and the Canadian embassy in Amman.

The RWC, which currently provides employment for 22 women — two supervisors, eight weavers, four trainers and eight finishers — is a pilot project for weaving room-size carpets featuring calligraphy and mosaic designs.

It will expand soon to provide more training and employment opportunities for women in the four small villages neighbouring Rimoun. Women already benefitting from the centre have a stable income of about JD60 a month. Their products are on display at NHF's Handicrafts Exhibition near Kan Zaman,



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday awards certificates to women graduates of the Rimoun Weaving Centre in Jerash (Petra photo)

which closes at 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24.

The Rimoun Weaving Centre is one of five projects that JDTC is implementing to benefit women in the northern areas of the Kingdom with funding from the DEF.

These include improving production and marketing skills at the Jerash Handicraft Centre of the Jerash Ladies Society, a wool spinning project in Jerash Camp, a basketry weaving project from

palm and banana leaves at the Mukheibeh village, an embroidery project in Ajloun and a machine embroidery scheme in Ramtha.

JDTC projects seek to raise the standards of Jordanian handicrafts production, improve marketing, create employment opportunities and increase women's involvement in production and decision making.

It also seeks to integrate handicrafts production with tourism.

The total number of beneficiaries from JDTC's training, technical and marketing services has reached 3,000 individuals and their families across Jordan.

Queen Noor was accompanied by NHF President In'am Mufti, NHF Director General Akram Qunsha and DEF Director General Mohammad Smadi.

The Queen was received upon arrival in Jerash by the Irbid governor and the mayor of Jerash.

Tax department opens 2 new Amman offices

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department Saturday announced the opening of two new offices in Amman.

Department Director Mansour Haddadin said one office is located in north Amman near the Jubilee Circle at the end of the Wasfi Tel street (formerly Gardens Street).

According to Mr. Haddadin, this office will be responsible for the following districts of Amman and neighbouring areas: Basman, Abdali, Tareq, Jubelha, Tlaa Al Ali, Um Summaq Al Shamali, Khilda, Sweileh, Dabouk, Shafa Badran and Abu Nuseir.

He said the other office is located in west Amman near the Seventh Circle behind the Jordanian Investment Corporation.

This office, he said, will serve the residents and businesses located in Zahran, Um Summaq Al Janoubi, Jabal Luweibdeh, Bader Wadi Seer, Bader Al Jadideh, Marj Al Hamam, and Naour.

According to Mr. Haddadin, the Income Tax Department's main offices will be responsible for areas around the following streets and quarters of the capital, mainly located downtown: Oweim, Ben Saideh, Hashemi, Talal, The Amphitheatre, Quraish, Muhajireen, Ali Ibn Abi Talab, Ben Zaher, Mohammad Huneiti, Rum, Prince Mohammad, Ibn Sufian, Shabouh, King Ghazi, Basman, Saadeh, Rida, Al Hashemeh Square, the Hussein Mosque Square and King Faisal Square.

The north Amman tax department office numbers are: 695808, 695829, 695823, 695891 and 695814.

The west Amman office phone numbers are: 818621, 817539, 819488.

Christian council supports King's stand on Jerusalem

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Orthodox Council Saturday voiced its total support for His Majesty King Hussein's stand on Jerusalem and welcomed the King's call for a special Islamic-Christian commission.

In a cable it sent to the King, the council, set up by the Arab Orthodox Society, referred to the recent addresses to the nation in which King Hussein outlined his vision of the future of the Middle East, democracy and a just peace settlement in the region.

The council hailed the King's support and encouragement for Islamic-Christian dialogue and pledged that it "stood ready to exert all efforts to offer cooperation towards serving national goals."

The cable, signed by Council President Raouf Abu Jaber, reaffirmed continued allegiance to the Hashemite throne.

Dr. Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times that the council particularly supported the King's proposals contained in an Oct. 12 speech to the na-

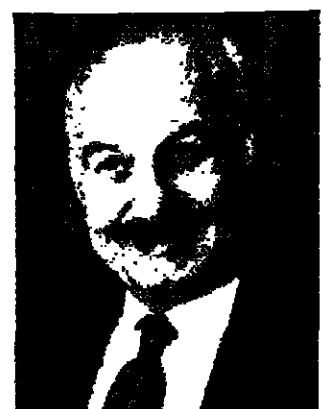
tion. In that speech, the King referred to the historic links the Hashemite family had with Jerusalem and said he would not accept any sovereignty over the Holy City except by God.

The King called on Arabs and Muslims to establish a "venerable, non-political religious body, representing the five Islamic sects, to look after the affairs of the Muslim holy places in Jerusalem."

The King also proposed an Arab-Muslim dialogue and a Muslim-Christian dialogue aimed at unifying ranks in view of the historic ties binding them.

"This would then be followed by comprehensive dialogue among the adherents of the three monotheistic religions," the King said. "Should a formula emerge that would preserve rights and protect the holy places, we would then look into it."

The Orthodox Society, a non-governmental, non-political organisation which aims at working towards safeguarding holy places which it



Raouf Abu Jaber

considers a sacred patrimony and a national heritage.

The society also seeks to preserve and protect the Orthodox estate, including churches and schools, and improve the living conditions and spiritual and cultural services to the Arab Orthodox community in the Kingdom.

Furthermore, the society works to enhance national unity in Jordan by participating in the ongoing Islamic-Christian dialogues.

Arab World looks into its irrigation needs

AMMAN (Petra) — Despite its meagre water resources Jordan has progressed in maximising the use of modern technology to improve the efficiency of its irrigation systems, said Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal Saturday.

Modern technology did not help to reduce water loss through leakage and evaporation, but also helped firms to manufacture much of the farming equipment needed for modern irrigation, said the minister in an address at the opening of a three-day workshop on the requirements of modern irrigation in the Arab World.

Organised by the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), which is an Arab League agency, the meeting is to review seven

working papers on such needs. Jordan has succeeded in manufacturing much of this equipment, including drip irrigation systems which are produced by 10 local firms and stand out as one example of this development, the minister said.

Dr. Kamal said Jordanian firms have invested \$5 million in this business and have been supplying drip irrigation equipment to local farmers and selling the surplus to neighbouring Arab and foreign countries.

Paying tribute to the AOAD, the minister said that the organisation has been striving to promote the agricultural sector of the Arab World and bring about integration in the field.

AOAD Director General Yahya Bakkour told the meet-

ing that only through modern techniques can the Arab World cope with the requirements of the modern age.

The Arab World is currently facing difficulties in its quest for development because of the lack of economic integration among Arab states and their inability to provide the requirements for production, Dr. Bakkour said.

Referring to food production and the difficulties facing the Arab World in this concern, Dr. Bakkour said that food security can be ensured through horizontal expansion of irrigated land, the use of modern technological systems in irrigation and proper management of water resources.

AOAD Regional Office Director Abdul Hamid Al Kayed called for the establish-

ment of an integrated pan-Arab industry producing the various requirements for modern irrigation methods.

Dr. Kayed urged the Arab World to appropriately manage available water resources. Together, 24 delegates and agricultural experts representing 14 Arab states are taking part in the meeting.

The AOAD said that they will discuss modern irrigation methods, rates of water consumption of different systems, the manufacture of irrigation equipment and existing manufacturing.

Also on the agenda are the experiments in irrigation systems of Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, Libya, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Tunisia, Yemen and Palestine.

Music ambassador graces odea

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The suave, soft speaking young woman would not let you guess the strong will that drove her to the keyboard or the stamina behind her critically acclaimed recitals. For Christine Diwyk emits an air of fragile, modest calm.

In Amman as part of "The Artistic Ambassador Programme," designed to utilise the wealth of often undiscovered musical talent in the United States and to enhance the United States Information Agency's mission of creating cross-cultural understanding, Ms. Diwyk had a packed programme for the two days of stay here.

Apart from performing at the Amman Private University, "which hosts a musician for the first time," she had a master class at the Jordan Academy of Music and a lecture-recital at the National Music Conservatory.

The repertoire included pieces by American composers Charles Griffes and Samuel Barber, but also works of world famous Beethoven, Carliatti and Chopin. One interesting way of performing is that of three avant-garde Henry Cowell pieces (1914-1925) at her lecture-recital.

"I stand up at the piano and play inside, not sitting at the keyboard," said Ms. Diwyk

gesturing the posture and energetically hammering the "cluster notes" that were to be performed for the benefit of the audience.

Enjoying an active career as a solo artist, chamber musician and teacher, Ms. Diwyk was selected to come to Amman after six auditions in centres throughout the U.S. and tough competition. She was here as part of a tour that also took her to Barcelona and Algiers.

Her stay in Amman, although short, was an enlightening one as she is a highly acclaimed professional. Winner of many prizes in different countries, a look at her concert and recitals performance list shows a rich activity especially since her formal New York debut in 1985 at the Carnegie Hall's Weill's Recital Hall.

Between concerts, Ms. Diwyk finds time to teach piano classes in school and privately. She is on the faculty of the Lucy Moses School of Music in New York.

Born in Gary, Indiana, where everybody's aim was "to find a good job in the steel mills" (some long closed), in a "non-musical family," Ms. Diwyk knew since very young what she wanted: play the piano.

So at around five years of age, she started getting piano classes under her parents' supportive eye.

Immigrants from the



Christine Diwyk

Ukraine and Lithuania, her parents used two languages (the Ukrainian dialect and German) so the young girls, Christine and her two sisters "who are not into music," grew up speaking both and "later" English. The nostalgia of talking about the past is quickly overcome by the pride at the achievements and the fact that she made it despite being "an oddball."

She attended Indiana University where she received her

Bachelor's and Master's degrees in piano performance, graduated with High Distinction and was awarded the "Performer's Certificate."

One music review in The New York Times gives an idea about Ms. Diwyk's performance: "She is a pianist who plays with startling power, clarity and variety, and who puts her impressive technique at the service of consistently insightful interpretive ideas."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arab press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Jerash gems by Paula Williams-Brown and portraits by Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily except Friday).

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mukhallad Al Mukhtar entitled "Colours on Black Paper" at La Cas Exhibition Hall (5th Circle).

★ Photo and painting exhibition on environment at the University of Jordan Exhibition Hall.

★ Exhibition of Chinese products at the International Exhibition Centre.

★ Art exhibition by artist Sabah Hadidi at the Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

★ Art exhibition entitled "The Spirit of the Youth" by artist Muhammad Al Lahham at the Beladina Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by artist Farouq Lambaz at the Alia Art Gallery.

★ The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic and environmental research in the Petra region at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of handicrafts at Abu Jaber estate, Yadoodeh (next to Kan Zaman).

★ Art exhibition by artists Mahmoud Taha and Salman Abbas at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by artist Mahmoud Al-Ubaidi at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.

FILMS

★ Feature film entitled "Creepshow" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (120 min.)

Hubert Dobers (right) of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Amman Saturday addresses the opening session of the "Ethics in Economy: Euro-Arab Perspectives"

symposium. Also on the podium are Arab Thought Forum Secretary General Ali Umleil (left) and Advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Mohammad Saqqaf (Petra photo)

Crown Prince assails bigotry at ethics in economy meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday attacked religious extremism as a destructive force in society that works against the teachings of Islam.

Extremism in any form is an explosive factor that threatens social cohesion, moderation and openness in culture, said the Prince in an address to a symposium entitled "Ethics in Economy: Euro-Arab Perspectives," which opened in Amman Saturday at the Forte Grand Hotel.

In his address, delivered on his behalf by his advisor Mohammad Saqqaf, the Prince said bigotry contradicts what Islam has advocated in utilising all potentials in dealing with everyday issues.

In referring to Jordan's ex-

periments in democracy, the Crown Prince said that the Kingdom has opted for democracy, political pluralism and tolerance.

Islam and Christianity have many common values and ethics, said the Crown Prince, especially with regard to respect for individuals and the role of the state in supervising the welfare of society and attending to its problems.

Prince Hassan stressed that Islam made great strides in organising economic relations among individuals and has set principles and details for economic dealings.

Despite the differences that might exist between the economic principles of both religions, the Crown Prince said that this should not necessarily lead to struggle.

He said that the conflicts

that do emerge in this sphere result from deviation from the philosophical basis of religion.

The discussion of ethics in economy is of paramount importance at this stage, especially as some were predicting possibilities of a clash between the Islamic and Christian cultures, said Prince Hassan.

Referring to the teachings of Islam regarding economy, the Crown Prince said that Islam advocates investing funds and resources and does not call for hoarding gold and silver; instead it calls on Muslims to help the poor, the needy and orphans.

He said the philosophy of economy in Islam highlighted individuals' freedom and dignity, banned slavery and promoted the status of women and workers.

Ancient coins could give clues to past — professor

CLEVELAND (AP) — Gold coins found in an archaeological dig could provide clues to the ancient village of Tel Nimrin, a religion professor said.

James Flanagan of Case Western Reserve University in the U.S. found the coins May 30 during a dig at the ruins of Tel Nimrin north of the Dead Sea and near the Jordan River.

Prof. Flanagan, also an archaeology researcher, has made three trips to Tel Nimrin in the past four years, and on his latest trip found 34 gold coins dating from between 364 A.D. and 518 A.D.

While he dug along the remnants of a wall, his tool nicked a fist-sized clay jug found inside what once was a public building.

"The juglet split open and released a trickle of gold coins," Prof. Flanagan said.

The oldest coin is from the reign of Emperor Valens, who ruled from 364 to 378 A.D. The rarest is a single coin from the reign of Emperor Basiliscus, who ruled for less than a year before he was murdered in 476.

Prof. Flanagan said the discovery of a cache of coins that spanned centuries is rare.

"What are they worth?" he said. "I don't know. The easy answer is they are worth whatever a collector would pay, but their scientific value is what's important."

The coins are the property of the Jordanian government,

which has allowed Prof. Flanagan to keep them for research for one year.

"During that time, they will be studied here for whatever scientific and archaeological details they can provide," he said.

Hertz opens first car rental offices in Jordan

Hertz, the No. 1 vehicle rental company in the world, has opened its first rental office in Amman.

The Amman office is located in the Middle East Hotel in Shmeisani and is open daily, (until 2 p.m. Friday). The office offers a wide range of manual and automatic saloon cars for self-drive rental, four-wheel-drive vehicles and a chauffeur drive service.

This is among the first of the new Hertz Middle Eastern locations to open, with others in Bahrain, Dubai, Qatar and Saudi Arabia in the process of opening this month - and the first in Jordan. These offices will soon be followed by others throughout the UAE, and other key locations within the GCC.

Mr. Naser Shakhshir Rent-a-Car, franchise holders of Jordan, said: "We are delighted and proud to have been selected to represent Hertz, the world's largest and longest-established vehicle rental company."

Mr. Antoine Cau, president of Hertz International, added: "The opening of the latest Hertz franchise in Amman clearly demonstrates the progress being made by our master franchisee, the Olayan Saudi Holding Co. of Saudi Arabia. Our overall aim is to establish Hertz as the car rental market leader in the Middle East through quality of service, product innovation and value for money."

Hertz celebrated its 75th anniversary this year.

King condoles emir of Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to Sheikh Issa Ben Salman, emir of Bahrain, conveying his condolences over the death of Sheikh Abdul Rahman Ben Fares Al Khalifeh of the Bahraini ruling family.

Minister visits voter card centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad Saturday toured and examined several voting card distribution centres. He also urged officials to facilitate the process in the interest of the public.

Health team heads for Denmark

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas leaves Monday for Denmark at the head of an official delegation to study the Danish system of health control of food

products. The minister will be accompanied by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Hani Mukli, Director of the Ports Corporation Operations Amin Hafez and a senior official from the health ministry, Mamoun Maabreh. The delegation will tour several food processing plants and hold talks with government officials.

Egyptian group visits NHF

AMMAN (Petra) — An Egyptian delegation Saturday visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and was briefed by NHF President In'am Mufti on the foundation's experiments and projects aimed at improving the quality of life of Jordan's rural population. These projects are being conducted in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health. The visit was organised as part of a training course set by NHF and WHO, and followed the announcement that NHF facilities serve as a regional training centre in rural development.

Jordan Times

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Freedom essential for peace

THE IMMINENT agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on the fate of more than 14,000 Palestinian prisoners is an encouraging piece of news. For the promise held out by the Sept. 13 peace accord between the Palestinians and Israelis cannot be complete unless those deprived of their freedom are set free.

News coming from Taba, where Palestinian and Israeli negotiators are racing against time to put the accord in motion, speak of Israeli readiness to release prisoners under 18 years of age, those over 50, women and the sick. But the Israeli position seems to be hardening as regards cases of convicted Palestinians who were sentenced during the past 28 years following missions that they had to carry out against Israel as fighters in a liberation movement. Some Israeli hardliners argue that those prisoners are "murderers" convicted and sentenced by Israeli courts.

The Palestinians insist on a clean-up, a release of all Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. They rightly say that discrimination against the prisoners on the basis of detainees as opposed to convicts or on the basis of their belonging to hardline factions as opposed to moderate groups, will only widen divisions in the Palestinian street adding more fuel to an already explosive situation.

The Israeli government is of course facing opposition at home regarding this and other aspects of its deal with the PLO. But it must have dawned on the most radical of Israelis by now that the deal with the PLO and Israel's recognition of the organisation not only absolved the PLO but also its fighters from all acts of resistance carried out prior to Sept. 13. Surely if the leaders of the PLO who led their people in the fight against occupation are now "partners in peace," their subordinates must now be cleared of all actions they committed under clear orders from their leaders.

During most of this century Palestinians killed Israelis, and Israelis killed Palestinians. If peace is to hold, all disaffected people, whether displaced, refugees or prisoners, must have their situations reversed. Of special importance now is the case of those imprisoned. If they do not share in the dividends of peace then that peace is worthless. We must keep in mind that the Israelis who killed and maimed Palestinians have long been freed by successive Israeli governments. It is not only the Israelis who have loved ones to go back to, the Palestinians too have families waiting for them.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday tackled the ongoing contacts among Arab leaders and said that the current stage requires close ranks and pooled efforts to confront the common challenges. It said that over the past few days, the King has had contacts with the leaders of Syria, Yemen, Qatar and Egypt to discuss concerted Arab steps with regard to the rapid moving developments in the region. It was also reported, said the paper, that King Hussein and President Mubarak of Egypt are expected to meet soon to examine the situation in depth and to chart a joint strategy vis-a-vis the coming stage. All these moves and contacts are bound to bolster the Arab ranks and to end their differences, which is a pre-requisite for solidarity in the face of the challenges facing peace, the paper said. It added that while the Arabs are waging the battle of peace, they are in dire need of strength which can come only through unity of ranks; they are in need of solidarity if they want to achieve permanent peace and bring about a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab lands.

COMMENTING ON the assassination of two key leaders of the Palestine resistance in Gaza, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that in no way can those opposing the peace process stop the region from living in peace through their acts and their crimes. Sultan Al Hatab said that the perpetrators and the plotters are triggering a civil war among the Palestinians living in the occupied Arab land, but they should not be allowed to have their way. The writer said that those betting on stirring trouble will not succeed simply because the Palestinian people, who have long suffered from occupation, would not allow civil strife to happen. We trust the Palestinian people's ability to abort any plots directed at their unity and steadfastness through their vigilance and full awareness of the consequences, should a conflict start inside the occupied territories, stressed the writer. It should be noted that the perpetrators of the crimes against moderate political leaders aim at aborting the peace process and depriving the Palestinian people of the chance of regaining their lost lands, he added. Only those who have interest in depriving the Palestinians of their legitimate rights, said the writer, could be responsible for the recent spate of murders in the Gaza Strip.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanck

New approach in economic planning

The five-year social and economic development plan, announced by Dr. Ziad Fariz, minister of planning on Sept. 18, 1993, did not receive the deserved attention from analysts and commentators in the Jordanian press, perhaps because of its timing.

The plan was announced at a time when the attention of the public opinion was focussed on one hot issue: the sudden turn of events in the peace process, namely the secret talks in Oslo and the American celebration of the meeting and handshaking between Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin.

All the lights were naturally focused on the possible outcome and consequences of this major event which was considered by some observers as a political earthquake or a historical miracle.

However, the clouds that overshadowed the plan are about to clear up. The dust must settle after the earthquake, and people should recover their usual interests.

At the forefront comes the scenario suggested by the plan for the development of social and economic life in Jordan during the coming five crucial years.

The new plan came after five years of suspending formal planning in 1988. It is not a simple resumption of the old planning process and practices. It is quite new in its objectives, approach and instruments, to reflect a completely new set of circumstances and priorities. Expansion and growth are no more the only important objectives. The plan is after structural adjustments on both macro and micro levels.

There is an investment scheme in the five-year plan, but the plan is essentially a set of packages of economic and social policies. The five-year period is only a platform to help the economic planning and implementation. The plan is flexible and subjected to annual revision.

It is therefore renewable while the period of five years will be maintained.

In this manner, planning will become an ongoing process, subject to continuous evaluation and periodical reviews. It is not a one-time decision that may be overtaken by events and developments.

The plan has the economic adjustment programme as an integral component, but it is much wider than the programme, which is centred on fiscal and monetary aspects. It covers all the social aspects, including poverty, unemployment, upgrading of labour force, enhancing productivity and dealing with education and public administration issues.

The new five-year social and economic development plan (1993-1997) is one hundred per cent a national plan, formulated by Jordanian expertise. It is not meant to be binding like a law, but to serve as an indicator and guide, to put the Jordanian decision makers on the overall map of the economic and social landscape and to enable decision and policy makers to make decisions and draw policies that reinforce each other and avoid contradictions that might happen in the absence of a comprehensive master plan, or an overall scenario.

If planning in a free market economy is justified, it is because it secures a measure of harmony and coordination among public sector subdivisions, which cannot, by definition, read and follow the signals of the market and behave accordingly.

The plan will also enlighten the private sector and allow informed decisions on private investments, based on knowledge of what the government is doing when it comes to laws and regulations related to economic life in both the short and the medium terms.

Apartheid's creations refuse to die gracefully

By Anton Ferreira
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — The 10 black homelands created by South Africa's white government are entering the twilight of their short and often absurd lives refusing to die gracefully.

Transkei, one of the four territories regarded as fully independent, gave Pretoria its latest homeland headache when it threw out the South African "ambassador" in protest at an army raid on an alleged guerrilla base in its capital, Umtata.

The raid earlier this month, in which five youths were killed, was itself an indirect result of the policy of moving blacks out of white South Africa and into their own separate states.

Because of its "independence" — granted in 1976 and recognised by no one but Pretoria — Transkei sets its own policies and forms its own alliances.

The military government of former Bantu Holomisa formed close links with Pretoria's enemies in the African National Congress and the more radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC).

In seeking to defend their raid, South African army officers listed a dozen places in Transkei where they said the PAC's Azanian People's Liberation Army was training guerrillas for attacks in South Africa proper.

The Johannesburg financial daily Business Day described the diplomatic row as "make-believe yielding to force."

"We have a diplomatic punch-up on a stage in which few people are interested and under two flags soon to be relegated to souvenirs," it said in an editorial.

The flags of both South Africa and Transkei are likely to be among the first symbols of the old order to be scrapped after majority rule is ushered in with all-race elections in April next year.

Transkei has declared its willingness to be reincorporated into South Africa as part of the final burial of apartheid. But two of the other nominal

independent homelands — Ciskei and Bophuthatwana — say they will cooperate in the transition only if the post-apartheid South Africa has a strongly federal structure.

They have joined right-wing whites and the KwaZulu homeland led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi in a front that poses one of the major remaining obstacles to the transition.

Bophuthatwana and Ciskei have threatened to bar their three million voting-age citizens from taking part in the



homelands at a recent session of the country's democracy talks, in the final analysis their continued existence depends on South African financial aid.

Ciskei leader Oupa Gqozo, whose troops killed 28 ANC protesters in September last year, faced another problem — his attorney general plans to charge him with murder following the 1991 killing of two anti-government activists in the homeland.

Mr. Gqozo took elaborate measures to halt an inquest into the deaths, including firing his justice minister. When that failed, he told the inquest judge he was too busy to give evidence and issued a decree excusing himself from testifying.

The courts overturned the decree. South African Auditor-General Henri Kluever, who has jurisdiction in the six non-independent homelands, has said corruption and waste are rife in some of them.

Armed police escorted South African financial officials into Lebowa in northern Transvaal last month to try to restore order to the homeland's chaotic finances.

The Pretoria government passed special legislation giving itself the power to override decisions by Lebowa leader Nelson Ramodike after it was disclosed he had approved mass promotions of civil servants and backdated their salary increases.

According to opposition member of parliament Peter Soal, South Africa paid the six non-independent homelands alone 16 billion rand (\$5 billion) in the last financial year. "We all know that money has been stolen in these homelands," he said, calling them a bottomless pit.

The Johannesburg Sunday Times, in an editorial on Lebowa's "end-of-empire corruption," said the sooner the homeland system was ended the better.

The Bantustans (homelands) are sumps of corruption, they have always been sumps of corruption and the government has always known they were sumps of corruption," it said.

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Green light for Maastricht fails to chase EC blues

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Time is running out for the European Community to solve its problems and win back the reputation it once enjoyed as a beacon of hope and prosperous stability on a troubled continent.

Even though the Maastricht Treaty which charts a course for the EC's future through political and economic union has finally been approved in all 12 member states, the community seems unable to shake off the gloom about its prospects.

EC leaders, some of them deeply unpopular at home, are due to meet twice in Brussels in the next two months and they have their hands full.

"If we continue like this, failing to recognise the benefits of a European construction, losing our ideals and the will to achieve them...we will be marginalised," said European Commission President Jacques Delors in a recent interview.

"We must stop splitting hairs, being morose...We must resume moving forward."

Community leaders made similar declarations at their last summit in June, even proclaiming an end to the era of self-doubt that had accompanied problems with the Maastricht Treaty, which was initially rejected by Denmark and met opposition elsewhere.

The treaty, first agreed in 1991, will come into force next month, after Germany became the last EC member to ratify it. But diplomats say a real change in attitude is what counts.

Differences with the United States over farm subsidies and other issues may destroy the chances of achieving a world trade deal by the end of the year. Little progress was made at top-level talks in Brussels last week.

Turmoil on currency markets and economic woes have called into question the EC's plans to create a single currency by the end of the century that would complement the barrier-free internal market set up for 347 million people.

The West's failure to stop the war in former Yugoslavia has dealt a blow to the community's attempts to build a common foreign and security policy.

The real issue for many Europeans has nothing to do with the obscurely-worded aims of the Maastricht Treaty. What they want is proof that the community can provide them with work.

With the jobless figure in the EC expected to reach 20 million — 12 per cent of the work force — next year, Mr. Delors has raised the spectre of 30 million unemployed by the end of the century unless things change radically.

"We are looking for a new development model," he told the European Parliament last week. "We can do it. If we don't we are not going to save European society."

Governments, worried that massive unemployment would lead to more crime and possibly even riots, are struggling to put together a package of employment measures. But it is already clear that not much

cash will be available.

The community already faces stiff economic competition from the United States and Japan and must face the question of whether it should cut its extensive social security network to boost productivity and bring in more jobs.

Diplomats say there is small chance of real change because many leaders have trouble with their electorates or parties and have little room for manoeuvre.

British Prime Minister John Major is struggling. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has been weakened by problems over unification and the French government is under attack from farmers angry over planned cuts in subsidies.

Diplomats say the fact that Greece takes over the EC's rotating presidency for the first half of 1994 and sets the community's agenda for six months will hardly help.

The Socialist election victory this month sent a tremor of fear through the community, where Athens' partners remember the free-spending radical policies of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu from his last term in office during the 1980s.

The crisis in the community — which contrasts with the self-assured atmosphere of the 1980s when the EC laid the foundations for a single market — has affected the mood in other countries which had been looking to Brussels.

Eastern European states, with fragile economies and young democracies, want to join because membership would bring them stability. While the community has recognised their desire to join, they have been given no timetable.

Even rich European states negotiating to join the EC are having problems. Austria, Finland, Sweden and Norway are planning on becoming members by 1995.

Many of their people, already questioning whether EC membership would mean losing power and money, have clearly been unimpressed by the community's recent performance.

An opinion poll in Norway showed 60 per cent of voters opposed EC membership with just 28 per cent in favour. Popular opposition has also risen sharply in Sweden.

Even though there are problems with implementing Maastricht, the community has already begun discussing how it can make sure it still functions properly with more members.

Some of the bigger EC countries, including France and Germany, want it to streamline its complex institutions and cumbersome decision-making process before others join, while smaller countries are worried that this would reduce their influence.

When the German Constitutional Court finally cleared the way for the Maastricht Treaty to come into force, there was no rejoicing in the streets and reason for governments to congratulate themselves.

"We haven't been able to convince people about this Maastricht Europe," German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said. "We have to catch up on that now."

New Russian movement could become ruling party

By John Morrison
Reuter

MOSCOW — Boris Yeltsin stayed away, but the image of another reforming Russian leader, Yegor Gaidar, the Great, towered over the delegates to the first congress this weekend of what may turn out to be Russia's new ruling party.

With parliamentary elections less than two months away, Mr. Yeltsin supporters have launched their campaign for a majority in the new state Duma (Lower House) by setting up an electoral bloc called "Russia's choice."

Much remains unclear about the new bloc — including Yeltsin's own attitude to it — but if its organisers have their way, it could turn into a Russia's first governing party with a proper parliamentary majority.

Since the banning of the Communist Party in 1991 Russia has lacked any stable, coherent political parties with a mass following ready to take responsibility for government.

The unfilled vacuum left by the communist collapse was one of the reasons for the political crisis that erupted in this month's doomed armed uprising in Moscow by communist and nationalist foes of Mr. Yeltsin, grouped round parliament.

Instead of powerful democratic political parties with clear ideals competing for power, Russia has had countless protest movements, proto-parties and lobby groups, all claiming phantom armies of supporters.

"Democratic Russia," the loose opposition movement that helped Mr. Yeltsin win election as president in 1991, never managed to become a proper party and splintered. One former activist described its leaders as "organisationally inept."

The supposedly powerful "Civic Union," formed last year to occupy the centre ground of Russian politics, dissolved into thin air as the conflict between Mr. Yeltsin and the parliament worsened.

Countless other fronts, coalitions and movements have been formed and dissolved, most of them led by would-be generals with no infantry.

Leaders of "Russia's choice" now see a chance to break this pattern, using the Dec. 12 elections to create a stable working majority in the state Duma to support Mr. Yeltsin's reform policies.

The mood at the two-day founding congress was sober and subdued, partly because of the shockwaves of this month's violence and the realisation of

how close the revolt came to succeeding.

It was the sober-suited ministers on the platform who set the tone. Debate was kept tight and there were no microphones on the floor of the hall.

Anatoly Chubais, the young economic reformer in charge of Russia's privatisation drive, commented: "democracy now demands new words — order, responsibility, discipline."

He said the shift away from what he called the infantile illnesses of Russia's democratic movement reflected social

changes over the past two years.

"Today is the culmination of a process that has been going on all over Russia. The market is no longer just a slogan but a means of existence, a way of life for millions who work in the privatised sector," Mr. Chubais told journalists.

Ministers such as Mr. Chubais and Yegor Gaidar, architect of Mr. Yeltsin's economic reforms, are at the centre of the new bloc and their free market capitalist policies form the core of its programme.

The bloc's slogan is "Freedom, property, legality" and its symbol is not the face of Mr. Yeltsin but the famous "bronze horseman" equestrian statue of Peter the Great, which is St. Petersburg's most famous landmark.

While the bloc clearly aims to support Mr. Yeltsin, the president himself seems to be hesitating about embracing it publicly — to the chagrin of some of his closest aides.

Originally scheduled to address the opening day, Mr. Yeltsin failed to show up, leading his adviser Gennady Burbulis to comment:

"This makes it even more important to create a fully-

pledged party so that the president does not have such hesitations and so that mistakes on such a scale are not made in future."

Mr. Yeltsin, by nature a maverick individualist with little time for traditional Russian politicking in groups, has faced much criticism from his supporters for failing to rally his supporters into a party.

When he was elected, he tried hard to be "president of all the Russians" and promised that as head of state he would break with communist precedent by not holding a party card of any kind.

Reading a message of greetings from Mr. Yeltsin, his Chief of Staff Sergei Filatov said the president was hoping for a "consolidation of all democratic forces" that would lead to a coalition in the new parliament.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, warning against complacency, told the delegates not to think of themselves as a new ruling party before the elections had been won.

But if the new group can avoid traditional Russian schisms, it could be well placed to be what Mr. Gaidar called the "Party of Order." Peter the Great — a reforming autocrat rather than a democrat — would have approved.



Tidbits for campaign '93

Turn of the candidates who fight battles in order to win election

The 1993 elections campaign, serious as it appears, is not devoid of a light — sometimes funny — side. There are tidbits about news, views and comments about the campaign that will appear (hopefully) every day in this corner until it is all over on Nov. 8. Humour is intended in the column, in no way libel.



Mohammad Bourini

THE LATEST gift to Jordan's parliamentary elections is a famous, self-styled Arab-American doctor, no less. Mohammad Hassan Mahmoud Said (Al Bourini) is running for the Nov. 8 elections as a candidate for Zarqa. Yesterday he ran a full page ad in one of the Arabic dailies in which he not only highlighted his achievements as a scholar but also spoke of his credentials as a peace envoy who once even shook the hands of Saddam Hussein. Dr. Bourini began his long manifesto by listing his academic degrees in the field of medicine at major universities, which

"if added up" would make him "the only person in the United States with such qualifications." In a summary of "my political struggle over the past 40 years," Dr. Bourini listed his meetings with heads of state and attendance at major conferences in the United States, including participation in an American trade delegation which visited Jordan in 1976 and met with His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Hassan and "during which I married a woman from my country, a step that was hailed by the Jordanian press with headlines like 'place your cheeks on the soil of your country.'" From 1988 to 1990 "I sent tens of letters and analyses by fax to the PLO on how to present the Palestinian problem to Americans, and I was interviewed by many newspapers and the media over this issue and how the PLO failed to heed my important proposals," he wrote. "After the Iraqi army went into Kuwait... I met with the Iraqi ambassador in Washington and made several suggestions as to how (we could) prevent war but they were not taken into consideration." In January 1991, the Arab-American physician went to Baghdad and presented a letter to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan "and shook the hand of the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (having) presented him with a letter that he should read to the American people." On Jan. 16, 1991, "I left

Kuwait quickly because I was sure that the attack would come that night." For two years after that Dr. Bourini kept sending proposals to Palestinian, Syrian and American leaders on how to tackle the Palestinian problem or avert Middle East and Islamic crises, although his efforts didn't get him anywhere. "In January 1993, I attended the Islamic conference in Baghdad and delivered an important statement that Dr. Mousa Keilani, the editor-in-chief of Al Dustour daily, thought was the best," he wrote. "In February of that year, I went to see Yasser Arafat upon (the latter's) request. During the meeting, Abu Amar "was upset with me because I started telling about the pressure Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was putting on the PLO." In March of that year, the doctor, who was born in Palestine in 1938, decided to turn his attention to Jordan. "I took a decisive step to stop voying for a position at the White



Hisham Awamleh

House because I did not have a popular base that would protect me if and when I disagreed with President Clinton's aides," Dr. Bourini said. "My dear voters, I have come from the United States of America after 20 years.... I have left behind a farm of 400 dunums full of apples, deer and wild birds on the banks of Columbia River.... I have left my large practice and my important social and political position. I have temporarily left my wife and sons (Yasser and Hisham) but brought my dear daughter Noor of Phalastine (Light of Palestine) to study in Jordan. I have done all of the above not in order to eat mansaf, nor to wag my tail and boast that I have reached Parliament... (I am running) out of commitment to national and Islamic causes... to do something in the American arena... to improve transport (in Zarqa)... to bring investments into the country... to help the poor... to create job opportunities... to build public bathrooms (in the city) and to maintain their cleanliness."

ANOTHER GIFT for our elections must be a Mr. Hisham Fawzi Al Awamleh who is a former colonel in the army, vying for a seat representing the Balqa District. In a campaign ad he ran in the local papers he talks about his past rather than the future. He boasted about his role in the "Ghor Al Safi battle," which took place in March of 1970. "I

commanded the joint forces of the (Jordanian) special forces, the Palestinian liberation forces, Fateh forces, the Popular Front, the Arab front, and the Saudi forces," he said going on to list the number of casualties on both sides. "For us: losses were 47 between dead and injured. For the enemy, between 200 and 250 between dead and injured."

A CANDIDATE for the same district does not have the military record of Mr. Awamleh to help him win his battle, so he is relying solely on some clever advertising techni-

ques to do the job for him. Dr. Fawzi Shaker Tuameh Al Daoud, a strong contender for the Christian seat in Balqa, has simply bungled it. Look at the ad he used in one local daily yesterday, and you'll know what we mean. The picture is clearly that of a group of foreigners, some of whom were doctored to appear with keffiyahs and moustaches (one, unfortunately turned into a woman by the unaltered artist). For a two-term deputy, Dr. Tuameh should know better than to use fake ads, and fake people to say "yes, yes" to him.

NERMEEN MURAD



Somber ceremony marking queen's beheading, le Pen turned away

By Christopher Burns
The Associated Press

PARIS — Under a cold gray sky, thousands of somber royalists and curious onlookers gathered at Place de la Concorde to honour Queen Marie-Antoinette, guillotined there 200 years ago.

"I feel anger, sadness and hope," an elegantly groomed Prince Sixte Henri de Bourbon Parme, 53, told a reporter. "We must remember the crimes that were committed."

Organisers blocked extreme rightist leader Jean-Marie Le Pen from entering the VIP section full of black-clad aristocrats, saying he was not invited.

"There are some that fear certain personalities would overshadow the event," Mr. Le Pen told reporters as he walked away.

"I am here because I am republican who doesn't associate himself with the revolution's reign of terror," he said as royalists jeered "Jacobin" — a revolutionary.

The ceremony was among dozens in Paris and the provinces to mark the Oct. 16, 1793 execution of Marie-Antoinette, convicted by a revolutionary tribunal of treason, government meddling and bankrupting the country.

A recent poll indicates the French are split over whether the 37-year-old queen deserved to die. A play in a sports arena, reenacting her kangaroo-like trial, has drawn capacity audiences that overwhelmingly vote her exile.

Many French feel it was enough to execute Louis XVI, a weak and indecisive king of 37 who was blamed for the French revolution in 1789, and that it was France's support for the American revolution that

did more to bankrupt the government than the queen's lavish living.

Several hundred people joined in a procession Saturday morning that traced the route of the queen's walk to her beheading, from the Conciergerie, where she was imprisoned, to the square at the foot of the Champs-Elysees.

After a minute of silence to mark the moment of her execution, admirers in a crowd of about 3,000 placed their bouquets on a grass-covered strip surrounded by candles as loudspeakers blared somber classical music.

"I'm very sad," said Philippe Terraudeau, 72, an architect and a royalist, his silver mane blowing in the chill wind. "I'm not proud to be French at this moment."

The mostly older crowd cried "Long Live the King" and "Long Live the Queen" as younger activists in sharp haircuts, blue ascots and white armbands with fleurs-de-lys sold pins and royalist literature.

A placard among dozens of bouquets read: "Pardon Marie-Antoinette"

Two dozen men in red sashes and gold royalist pins carried 2-metre banners in red with their group's name: "Tradition, Family, Property," among several royalist fringe groups.

"Our organisation must now take up the task of rehabilitating Louis XVI," Marc Antoine de Seze, 45, deputy president of the Louis XVI Bicentennial Committee, told the gathering.

"Mr. de Seze called on the government to condemn the executions of the king and queen. The group marked the king's execution at the same site in January.

Workshop recreates Nabatean civilisation, forges friendship

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — What happens when 30 people live together for many hours a day in a relatively limited, closed space? And when they do not (all) speak the same language but do the same thing: create art?

Well, this is what they do: create art.

The 30 people are artists from 11 countries, brought together in Amman for the First International Festival of Fine Arts. The activity is the collective efforts of The Royal Society of Fine Arts, the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, the Open Atelier in Tunisia and a few sponsors, including the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

The idea, tabled by Jamal Afaf Dakhli, was to start a workshop, like the ones in France and Tunisia, which will bring together talented artists for two weeks and that will become an annual event.

The National Gallery of Fine Arts answered favourably to the proposal and the artists had only to ensure transportation to and from Amman. Everything else was provided for them, including working material (tools, canvas, colours).

The theme was "light and colour in Nabatean civilisation" and their stay included visits to Petra, Wadi Rum, Jerash, the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, Umm Qais and Amman and its surroundings.

Work would alternate with cultural activities, like lectures on art, musical evenings, opening of exhibitions, slide presentations of art and history of

the artistic movement in a certain country by an artist from that country.

The outcome is around 150 art works, most of which are exhibited at the National Gallery in Lwbeid.

According to Hasan Hijazi, director of the festival and acting director of the gallery, the visit to Petra and Wadi Rum had "a tremendous impact on the artists."

Comparing works before and after the visit, the impress on the artists is obvious in the choice of colour and, in some, in that of theme.

Now most artists have returned home. A few are still here and talking to them gives one some idea of what it must have been like when they were working, and spending leisure time, together.

The nostalgic tone shows regret at the fact that it is all over and they had to part. The eagerness to volunteer information (technical or otherwise) about fellow artists shows that deep bonds of friendship, professional respect and human relationship were forged.

The energetic, bubbling with life Ghalia Afaf Dakhli, from Tunisia, talks about the good organisation of the programme, about her work and about the works and personalities of others.

A painter and ceramist, she prolonged her stay for one more week, until the work she and French Brigitte Burie did is finished.

Proudly showing a raw model of their common effort, she says the final product will be displayed at the Ministry of Tourism.

The panel representing a

huge shell, symbolising life, the beginning, the cosmos, is made up of scores of pieces, mosaic-like, whose colours will be ...Petra's beiges, ochres, browns, pinks.

A more reserved artist, Lebanese Randa Beiruty, shows her works and feels she should present everybody else since they are not here.

Here are three-dimensional representations, similar to stone sculptures, but which, surprisingly, are made of papier-mache, wire for support, glue and tempera.

The artist says she works with "inspiration and design". She sketches, "while creating, solving the problem of transforming one dimension into three dimensions". She is driven by her "love for nature, form and colour" which she tries to get together.

A look around the gallery, "helped" by the enthusiastic artists joined by now by Iraqi Amaleed Al Hazbah, reveals the variety in style, colour and media of expression, testimony to the assorted presence of artists.

Ten Jordanians took part in the workshop, among them the famous Samia Zaru, Hind Nasser, Rafiq Lahham and less famous, but obviously talented, Anastasia Sakab whose three black panels with abstract geometrical figures in thick light colour oil stand equal to the ones of the well-known Iraqi Halim Mahdi.

The French presence makes itself felt, especially when you know that one of the artists, Jacques Barthelemy, started work on his huge, six-piece canvas, stopped it only to start painting Petra-inspired frames

and finished his initial work just before the end of the workshop.

Showing a good command of colour and a preoccupation with time and mythology, the Italian Piero Fornati Tivini creates an interesting collage work of images in a room, something the artist also experienced while working in the space allocated him in the room of the National Art Gallery.

Time and its passage seems to be a recurrent theme as many artists give it expression in their works, one way or another.

It is the case of Ishaq Nahleh, from Jordan, who uses two kinds of media to create a cracked, old look to his works reminiscent of old Russian icons.

It is also the case of Ms. Dakhli, whose ceramics are clay and sand mixed to give a rough surface of objects eroded by time and the Cypriot Rhea Bailey, "a lonely, sad, fragile" talented artist whose embryo-like pastels evoke time and existence.

Also present were artists from Palestine, Syria, Egypt, the U.S.. They left their mark on the works left behind and in the hearts of those who worked with them. "It was an extraordinary, unique experience," said Mr. Hijazi adding that a 10x2-metre canvas, the product of the collective effort of the artists who gave their own representation of the old Amman, was given as a gift to the capital's municipality, one of the sponsors of the activity.

The works will be on display at the National Art Gallery until Oct. 29, 1993.



Artistic ambassadors in Jordan: France, Italy, the U.S., Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia — countries that sent their



representatives to an art festival celebrating Nabatean civilisation

Ndadaye's death shatters dream of democracy

By Serge Arnold
Agence France Presse

NAIROBI — Burundi President Melchior Ndayaye, whose death was reported Friday by his Health Minister Jean Minani, had been trying to bring democracy to his small eastern African country.

But after only five months the first president of Burundi to come from the majority Hutu people, after ground-breaking elections called by his predecessor Major Pierre Buyoya, was overthrown Thursday by the powerful military composed largely of the minority Tutsi, traditional rulers both before colonisation by Germany and then Belgium, and after independence in 1962.

In an interview with Rwandan Radio monitored here, Mr. Minani, who was in the neighbouring Rwandan capital of Kigali when the coup was launched Thursday, said: "The dictators killed Ndayaye."

He said: "The whole world knows that they killed him in cold blood, as well as the

speaker of parliament and many other democratically elected leaders" of Burundi.

There was no independent confirmation of his death, however.

Mr. Ndayaye's reported death has awakened fears of a repetition of the horrendous massacres perpetrated by Tutsis against Hutus, 83 per cent of the population, in 1965, 1972 and 1991 in which an estimated total of some 200,000 were killed.

Following his defeat of Buyoya in the presidential poll and the victory of his Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU) in general elections on June 29, Mr. Ndayaye was optimistic that he could bring about "a new Burundi," although foreign diplomats accused him of being naive.

In an interview with AFP following his accession to the presidency, Mr. Ndayaye, who studied and practised psychology in the early 1980s, discounted prospects of Tutsi revenge, saying he was unafraid of the future.

"Our country has experi-



Melchior Ndayaye

enced a psychological liberation," he claimed. "The Hutus are free from the anguish of oppression (while) the Tutsis are free from a complex of superiority and occupying undeserved positions."

Mr. Ndayaye, born March 28, 1953 in a village of the central province of Muramvya, himself fled to Rwanda during the massacres of 1972 which followed a Hutu revolt. He returned to Burundi in

1981, but gave up psychology three years later to enter the financial world, becoming a personnel and training officer in a savings and credit institution.

In 1989 he was named an adviser to the rural development minister, then joined the Meridien Biao, where he was in charge of the loans department when he was catapulted into the presidency.

He had secretly created the FRODEBU in 1986, and saw it legalised under Gen. Buyoya's new constitution which legalised a multi-party system in March 1992.

His wife and three children were reported Thursday to have taken refuge in the French embassy in the capital Bujumbura.

While the coup-makers have installed a "committee of national salvation" headed by Francois Ngeze, interior minister in Gen. Buyoya's government, one of the leading figures in the revolt is reported to be Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, who was overthrown by Gen. Buyoya in 1976.

British National Party plots to bring about an all-white Britain

LONDON (AP) — Behind a boarded up store front in south London, the far-right British National Party plots to rid Britain of ethnic minorities and Jews.

"I don't want to denigrate any other culture, but we want Britain for the British," said Richard Edmonds, one of the party's founders.

Mr. Edmonds and his fiercely nationalist followers object to what he says are "hordes of immigrants" who clog hospitals and other services with "their sick, lame and lazy."

Supporters of immigrants argue that minorities do not receive an unfair share of welfare and other social services. The government says it does not keep figures on the race of people who get benefits.

Major goals of the British National Party are an end to immigration, the expulsion of all blacks and Jews and stricter punishment for crime — including the return of the death penalty.

The door to the party's office is permanently barred and locked. Callers are scrutinised through a spy hole in the

door. Windows upstairs are boarded up, smashed by anti-racists who regularly picket the office.

On display inside is a selection of racist literature, including books questioning whether the Nazis murdered millions of Jews in the Holocaust.

Mr. Edmonds' style is bullying. Questioned closely, he becomes patronising, repeatedly referring to his degree in electrical engineering, "which means I know about logic."

He sidesteps the question when asked whether he would advocate the death penalty for anyone who murders blacks.

Mr. Edmonds says the party has 46 "units" around the country, concentrated in white, working class areas in London and other major cities.

He denies the party advocates violence. But staff at Searchlight, an anti-fascist magazine, contend his party has close links with Combat 18, an extremist group that attacks

blacks and Jews.

Tony Robson, a Searchlight researcher, said Combat 18's crudely produced magazine, redwatch, publishes the names, home addresses and telephone numbers of anti-fascists and wishes members "good hunting."

One issue shows a skull alongside the words, "Zyklon-B, over six million satisfied customers," referring to the poison used to kill Jews in World War II.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A Jordanian company is seeking the employment of a female with the following qualifications:

1. University degree from a reputable university in either of the following fields: marketing, business administration or interior decorating.
2. A minimum of two years work experience in Jordan.
3. Excellent command of Arabic and English languages, (command of French language is an asset).

Please send C.V. within one week to:
Group Engineering Manager
P.O.Box 1027, Amman - Jordan

EC defends GATT offer, urges Washington, Tokyo to do more

The NASDAQ index, helped by buying in technology and biotechnology shares, ended up 1.40 points at 772.68.

But he said it was withdrawing an offer to liberalise outside access to the Community's

"I told (U.S. Trade Representative Mickey) Kantor that the Americans have not fulfilled their promises and that consequently the ball is in their court," Mr. Delors said.

"We agreed on a method and now it seems the Americans... are not fulfilling their promises. So we are waiting," he said.

ment fails Air Fran

The last communist-era price subsidies were abolished in July, the climax of a two-year-long price thaw that was launched by previous post-communist governments as part of efforts to create a free-market economy.

Mr. Arafat, and the leader of Palestinian delegations in bilateral negotiations Faisal Husseini, made particular mention of pipes and sewers, ports, electrical installations and radio and television facilities.

Larry Vitale, an analyst with Bear Stearns brokerage firm in New York, calculated that the \$250 expense reduction could increase earnings by almost 40 cents per share annually.


VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think over the various private ambitions that most acti-

sure just what to do about it so put on your thinking cap.

THE DAILY CROSSWORD

by George Uquhart

YOU THINK YOU'RE VERY CLEVER, DON'T YOU?

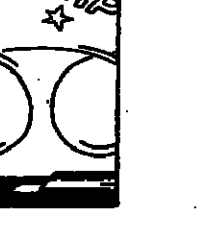


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- 1 Cattle group
- 5 Where Shilling is
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- 16 Ethnic group
- 17 Melody
- 18 Geography book
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24 Actress Hitler of "Pygmalion"
25 Slyly malicious
26 Lukewarm
31 Superior
32 Actress Marie
34 Panel truck
37 Greeting/early odds
40 Raggedy —
41 Each
42 Sale phrase
43 Beginning
44 Treat ore
45 Dead kin
46 Baby's bed
50 Beatles song/Roy Scout motto
57 Polo —, Cal.
58 Knocked for —
59 Type of wrestling
60 Baker's shovel
61 Crill con —
62 The thing present
63 Parched
64 Gerenuk
66 First name in mysteries

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2 Black, to poets
3 Outer cover
4 Reduced in rank
5 "A Bell for —"
6 — Hall U.
7 Ego




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THUMBS

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Arabs seek U.N. help to boost internal trade

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states have asked the United Nations to support their efforts to boost flagging trade among them and encourage members to press ahead with economic reforms, officials said Friday.

The Arab Trade Fund Programme (ATFP), created three years ago to finance internal trade, signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Thursday under which it will provide technical assistance to the fund and upgrade its services.

The agreement followed complaints that demand for ATFP has remained slow, with credits provided to member states reaching around \$224 million compared with a financing capacity of \$1 billion a year.

An ATFP statement said the

three-year agreement, envisaging spending of \$2 million, covered expansion of the trade data base at the fund's headquarters in Abu Dhabi, organising exhibitions and talks among importers and exporters, and staging training on promotion and marketing of products.

"Details of the project will be worked out at a meeting on Nov. 13, to be attended by the Islamic Development Bank, which has offered to contribute to the project," the statement said.

The data base was launched in 1992 and is expected to be completed in early 1994. The computerised project will link Arab states and distribute information to exporters on regional markets, including type of products, prices, supply and demand, export potentials, economic policies, exchange

rates, transport, investment and trade agreements.

It is being set up by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), which contributed half of ATFP's capital of \$500 million. The rest came from other Arab financial institutions and banks.

"The agreement provides for development and expansion of the data base to cover trade agencies and export centres in the region," the statement said.

ATFP operations cover only home-made products, excluding oil, to encourage Arab exports as part of ongoing reforms to tackle economic problems caused by decades of state control and political instability.

AMF figures showed inter-Arab exports fell to 7.3 per cent of their total exports in 1992 from 9.1 per cent in 1989

World Bank recommends privatisation to boost Kuwait's sluggish economy

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The World Bank has recommended privatising public services and part of Kuwait's oil industry to boost the emirate's sluggish economy, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The English-language Arab Times published a summary of the World Bank report that also recommended opening privatised companies to foreign investment and closing unprofitable state-owned businesses.

"The need for these reforms has been increased by the cost of the Gulf war and the resulting loss of investment income that supplements the nation's oil income," Arab Times quoted the report as saying.

The paper said the report was prepared at the government's request and submitted in August.

More than two years after the war that liberated the emi-

rate from a seven-month Iraqi occupation, its 1993-4 budget projects a 1.5 billion dinars (\$5.2 billion) deficit.

Foreign investments, which were seen as an alternative source of income when the oil runs out, fell from \$100 billion in the 1980s to an estimated \$30 billion now because of the cost of the war, poor management and embezzlement.

The government owns and subsidises all public services in Kuwait. Health care and education are provided free to citizens. Electricity, water and communications services are heavily subsidised.

The government employs almost all of the Kuwaiti work force and provides them with salaries and benefits unmatched in the private sector.

"Perhaps, just as importantly, these reforms would free up the energy and creativity of the Kuwaiti people, reduce an ex-

cessive reliance on the state and give both Kuwaitis and foreign investors a greater stake in the prosperity and independence of the nation," the report was quoted as saying.

Non-Kuwaitis have to have Kuwaiti partners in their businesses and are not allowed to own any real-estate in the oil-rich emirate.

The Arab Times said the team that visited Kuwait to write the report thought public sector over-staffing had resulted in low productivity. The team also said excessive protection of private businesses had left the private sector inefficient.

Kuwait's parliament approved in September a plan to settle \$24 billion in bad debts owed to banks from a stock market crash and loans that went sour during the Iraqi occupation.

The plan was criticised for using public money to solve the problems of mostly wealthy merchants including members of the ruling Al Sabah family.

The World Bank reportedly suggested separating the government's ownership function of the oil sector from its policy function by transferring the ownership of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to a proposed government privatisation office.

It also recommended joint ventures with private companies in the oil sector to be followed by a sale of 25 per cent of KPC's shares, that could raise more than six billion dinars (\$21 billion).

Kuwait had decided to privatise its pumping stations, but nothing has been done to implement the decision.

Plans to privatise telecommunications services and the electric power network were

announced last year.

Meanwhile, Kuwait is studying the possibility of oil production sharing deals with foreign firms which would reverse two decades of nationalisation, a Kuwaiti oil industry official has said.

"The Higher Petroleum Council has been looking into the idea of oil production sharing with foreign companies," the official, who would not be named, told Reuters.

The council, comprising senior cabinet ministers and oil officials, is in charge of major oil policy decisions.

Further studies are awaited by the council before it issues a decision in this regard, and that might take some time," the official said. "It is still a matter of research."

Kuwait has only one concession agreement with a foreign firm, Japan's Arabian Oil Company.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 21/10/93	New York Close Date: 22/10/93
Sterling Pound	1.4845	1.4725
Deutsche Mark	1.6672	1.6775
Swiss Franc	1.4700	1.4775
French Franc	5.8400	5.8525
Japanese Yen	108.33	108.08
European Currency Unit	1.1567	1.1398

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White House backs Aristide despite critical CIA report

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House gave ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide a vote of confidence against a CIA report questioning his mental health, and Mr. Aristide himself called the charges "garbage."

"Our judgment is that he is fully qualified to be president of Haiti," White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers told reporters.

The White House was trying to cast doubt on an unpublished CIA report which conservative Senator Jesse Helms said described Mr. Aristide as a "psychopath."

"In our dealings with president Aristide, he's been rational and responsive... and I would remind you he is the duly elected leader of that country," Ms. Myers said.

Sen. Helms and at least nine other lawmakers were briefed by CIA officials Wednesday on the intelligence about Mr. Aristide, who was toppled

from power two years ago in a military coup and is to be restored to power under a U.N.-brokered accord.

After the briefing, Sen. Helms said on the Senate floor that intelligence officials had described Mr. Aristide as a "psychopath."

"He is one of the most brutal people to hold office in this hemisphere in my lifetime," Sen. Helms said. Senate Republican leader Bob Dole called the CIA report "very disturbing."

Mr. Aristide, asked about the charges, said: "It's garbage."

"They said worse about Martin Luther King," he said on public television's MacNeil/Lehrer News-hour. "As a psychologist I know about character assassination. As a psychologist, I know about psychological war."

An Aristide aide, former representative Michael Barnes, called the criticism a

transparent smear campaign organised by Mr. Aristide's opponents in the Haitian ruling elite.

"I have never witnessed a more vicious and unfounded campaign of orchestrated character assassination than the one directed at President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in the past few days," said Mr. Barnes in a statement.

"The drug traffickers and corrupt elite who control Haiti — and their agents in Washington — are hard at work" trying to destroy President Aristide so they can cling to power, Mr. Barnes said.

Meanwhile, the army and Haiti's embattled pro-democracy government fought each other for control of dwindling fuel supplies Friday as oil companies cut off supplies to stations to obey a U.N.-ordered embargo.

Pro-military supporters held a voodoo ceremony near the

U.S. embassy in which about 50 protesters and a white-robed voodoo priest staged a ceremony for television cameras, using traditional grains of corn and hot peppers.

During the two-hour ceremony, participants were asking the spirits of their ancestors to help them save the country and find a solution to the crisis, said the group's spokesman Emanuel Constant on Radio Metropole.

In a chaos-filled day, a parliamentary crisis committee met U.S. Ambassador William Swing in an attempt to act as mediator. The committee urged the government of Mr. Aristide to yield on certain issues.

The committee, representing pro-military forces, asked Mr. Aristide to broaden his cabinet and name an opposition figure to the position of justice minister.

Mandela: Meeting with Zulu king vital

EDENDALE, South Africa (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela said Saturday he wanted to meet Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini to help end bloodshed in South Africa.

But Mr. Mandela, speaking in the Natal province heartland of his main black political rival Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, said efforts to arrange such a meeting had so far been fruitless.

"My visit... paying respects to the king is one of the ways to normalise the political situation in the country," the ANC leader told reporters at Pietermaritzburg's Edendale township.

Mr. Mandela said he had seen many kings during his travels around the world, "but I would prefer to see our king in this country."

South Africa's nine-million Zulus are bitterly divided between supporting the ANC and Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, which closely aligns itself with the king.

Police blame much of the violence sweeping South Africa on turf wars between supporters of the rival black organisations.

Nearly 1,900 people have been killed, mainly in Natal and Johannesburg's township, since early July when multi-party negotiations set April 27 as the date for the first all-race election.

The ANC president plans to address an ANC-organised cultural festival, or Sonke, in the coastal city of Durban Sunday. The aim is to show provincial support for the April election which will end 350 years of white domination in South Africa.

Mr. Mandela said the aim of the Sonke (Zulu for "all of us") was "to make a clarion call for unity in our country and peace" and to put his supporters on an election footing.

Mr. Buthelezi, whose party has boycotted the democracy talks along with the white right since the election date announcement, said last week the Zulus might decide to act unilaterally if his demands for Zulu autonomy in the new South Africa went unheeded.

But Mr. Mandela, who favours strong central government, said Saturday the ANC would not let Mr. Buthelezi bring about secession of the Natal-Kwazulu region.

"It's not an individual who decides on secession. It's the people of South Africa," said Mr. Mandela, whose ANC is widely expected to win most votes in the election.

Inkatha, which has joined other black and white conservatives in a freedom alliance, has so far not decided, if it will take part in the elections.

The alliance is holding bilateral talks on its demands for autonomy for its members with both the ANC and President F.W. de Klerk's government.

The ANC is pressing the Commonwealth to take on the role of watchdog for democracy in South Africa.

ANC Chairman Thabo Mbeki, accredited to the Commonwealth summit in Cyprus although South Africa is not yet a member of the 50-nation group, says the organisation must not only help ensure successful elections in April but act to safeguard democracy afterwards.

Georgian forces push into Gamsakhurdia strongholds

KUTAISSI (AFP) — Georgian government troops pushed Saturday into the west Georgian province of Mingrelia, stronghold of rebel forces loyal to former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, Georgian officials said here.

Government troops battled their way into Abasha, a key city in Mingrelia, and fighting continued further north in the village of Martvili, the officials said.

Rebel forces also abandoned the village of Senaki, located about 15 kilometres north of Abasha, opening a key route to Zugdidi, the main city of Mingrelia, and to the Black Sea port of Poti seized by armed Gamsakhurdia supporters on Oct. 2.

Government troops managed to push back a rebel advance on western Georgia Friday by recapturing the strategic city of Samtredia, after they retook Tskhaltubo, 12 kilometres (8 miles) north of Kutaisi Wednesday and the town of Khoni Thursday.

The troops planned to press forward towards Zugdidi and Poti and establish Tbilisi's control on the entire region of Mingrelia, which remained loyal to Mr. Gamsakhurdia after he was ousted from power in January 1992.

The latest development came as Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze signed a decree confirming Georgia's alliance with Moscow.

The decree proclaiming Georgia's membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States was signed overnight following "consultations" with Georgian members of parliament, the majority of whom were in favour of CIS membership, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported in Moscow.

Mr. Shevardnadze last month suspended parliament under a nationwide state of emergency declared amid heavy fighting in Abkhazia

where separatist rebels have seized control of most of the territory in the Black Sea province.

CIS membership would allow Georgia to call on Russian and other member-states of the alliance for military assistance under a 1992 collective security treaty.

Russia this week dispatched troops to western Georgia where forces loyal to Mr. Gamsakhurdia have been waging war against Mr. Shevardnadze's government troops.

The troops were officially sent on a peacekeeping mission aimed at protecting key railway links and routes from the rebel-held Black Sea port of Poti to the capital of Tbilisi.

But government forces acknowledged unofficially that at least some of the weaponry which arrived here Wednesday was provided by the Russian army, which Moscow and Russian officials in Georgia continue to deny.

President Boris Yeltsin said Saturday that he had ordered Russian troops, along with other units from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to unlock railways and routes in western Georgia.

Mr. Yeltsin, speaking to reporters during a visit to Yaroslavl, Russia, said that he had signed a memorandum ordering the defence minister to dispatch troops in the joint CIS military mission.

He did not say when he had signed the order.

"We must absolutely unblock the routes and railways along with joint CIS forces made of troops from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia because it is the only supply link for Armenia and Azerbaijan," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Georgian officials earlier this week said Russian troops had arrived in the embattled west Georgian region but added that they remained in their barracks awaiting the arrival of other CIS forces.

Besieging Serbs pound Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb gunners besieging Sarajevo pounded the Bosnian capital Saturday, and Muslim and Croat forces fought in the central region of the former Yugoslav republic.

A general alert was ordered in Sarajevo because of the intensity of the bombardment against the old and new town sectors and the northwest suburbs. There was no immediate word on casualties.

Croatian media said Muslim troops attacked positions of the Croat Defence Council (HVO) around the central town of Zepce.

No ground changed hands but the Muslims were bringing in reinforcements, the reports added.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic protested to Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban against his signing of a peace pact with a Muslim rebel in northwest Bosnia.

Mr. Boban and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic both signed agreements this week with Fikret Abdic, president of the self-proclaimed autonomous province of western Bosnia, which has broken with the Bosnian government led by President Alija Izetbegovic.

Mr. Abdic controls less than a third of the Bihac pocket territory he claims, with the rest being held by Mr. Izetbegovic loyalists.

Mr. Silajdzic said in a letter to Mr. Boban that his agreement hampered "efforts to build mutual trust, end the hostilities and restore peace in the region."



Protesters disperse Friday after troops fired capital of the Indian state of Kashmir (AFP photo)

India keeps firm lid on Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Curfews and tight security kept a firm lid on further protests in Kashmir Saturday after anti-Indian demonstrations in which at least 38 people were killed.

Restrictions on movement were lifted in much of the scenic Kashmir Valley following a near total clampdown to squash planned mass protests against a week-old army siege at the state's holiest Muslim shrine.

But shops remained shut for a general strike in the state capital Srinagar and an indefinite curfew was maintained in several trouble-prone districts. Witnesses said a few small protests flared by mid-afternoon in various parts of the city, but no casualties were reported.

Official sources said 32 people were killed and at least 76 were wounded Friday in the small town of Bijbehara, about 40 kilometres south of Srinagar, when the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire on marchers.

Residents said up to 45 were killed and about 150 injured. They said BSF troops opened fire after trapping demonstrators by blocking both ends of the main street.

"They gave no warning, nothing," 27-year-old storekeeper Nasir Hussain said.

An official government statement said the BSF, which

has won a reputation for brutality in Kashmir's four-year anti-Indian uprising, returned fire after Muslim militants started shooting at them.

But Kashmir's divisional commissioner, Wajahat Habibullah said there would have to be a full investigation into the killings.

"It's a major tragedy. The facts are: certainly very grim," he told reporters after inspecting the scene at Bijbehara.

Funerals that may have revived tension and mass protests were restricted to small family gatherings.

Journalists visiting the town were manhandled and ordered away by army soldiers, who said a curfew had been imposed. The troops confiscated film, tore up notebooks and smashed at least one camera.

Police sources said protests in various parts of Srinagar Friday claimed at least six lives. Four were shot dead by security forces in the Fateh Kadal area of the old quarter, and the others in two separate incidents.

A government statement said three people were killed in Fateh Kadal and accused demonstrators of trying to set fire to an official building.

Three BSF members were injured in a grenade attack by Muslim militants during another march, it added.

Police and hospital sources say at least 13,000 people have been killed in the mountains

northern state since early 1990, when the rebellion exploded against Indian rule in the mainly Muslim region.

Some of the militant groups are fighting to join Pakistan, which rules one third of Kashmir, while others want a reunited and independent Kashmir.

The latest crisis flared when Indian troops surrounded Srinagar's Hazratbal Mosque at midnight on Oct. 15, saying up to 50 armed militants were holed up inside.

Some 150 civilians are also inside the shrine, which holds what Kashmiri Muslims believe to be a hair of the Prophet Mohammad.

Meanwhile Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto condemned Saturday the killing of Kashmiris and called for an immediate end to the siege of Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar.

"Such brazen disregard for human lives can only aggravate tension in occupied Kashmir," Ms. Bhutto said in a statement from Jeddah, released in Islamabad.

The action of the Indian forces was "clearly inconsistent with the latest offer of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao for talks on normalisation of Indo-Pakistan relations," Ms. Bhutto said.

Mr. Rao had made the offer in a congratulatory letter to Ms. Bhutto after she took office Tuesday.

Burundi minister forms government in exile

KIGALI (Agencies) — Burundi's Health Minister Jean Minani Saturday announced that he had decided to form a government in exile in the Rwandan capital Kigali, Radio Rwanda reported.

At least 100,000 Burundis have fled across the border into Rwanda since Thursday's military coup, Rwanda's Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana announced.

Mr. Minani, who was visiting Rwanda at the time of the coup, confirmed Friday that President Melchior Ndadaye, the country's first president, had been killed by the coup leaders, believed to be soldiers

from the minority Tutsi tribe which has traditionally dominated the government and armed forces.

He said he had decided to form a government after consulting with politicians democratically elected in last June's first multi-party elections, but he did not give any names.

Mr. Minani appealed to diplomats based in the Burundi capital Bujumbura, the U.N. Security Council and the international community to restore peace and democracy in Burundi.

He also called on all Burundi embassies to contact him. Burundi's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva,

Perpetue Shimiramana, said Friday that Mr. Minani would head a "state committee for the restoration of democratic order" which would comprise Burundi's dozen or so embassies around the world.

Rwanda's Premier Uwilingiyimana announced last Friday that more than 100,000 refugees, mainly old men, women and children, had flooded into Rwanda since Thursday.

She said refugees were continuing to pour into the Kigali region in southern central Rwanda, Butare in the south and Cyangugu in the southwest, and they would need international aid.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Angola, rebels to meet in Zambia

LISBON (R) — Representatives from the Angolan government and the rebel movement UNITA are on their way to the Zambian capital Lusaka to hold preliminary talks on the Angolan peace process, Portuguese TSP Radio said Saturday. It was not clear when talks would be held or who the representatives from each side would be, the radio's reporter in Luanda said. Representatives from both sides "who had been involved in previous peace negotiations" were attending the secret talks, TSP quoted an unnamed source as saying. The president of Sao Tome and Principe, Miguel Trovado, said Friday in Lisbon that talks between Luanda and UNITA could begin soon. UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) has been fighting the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) since 1975.

Actors barred from Bosnia flight

ROME (R) — A group of mostly British actors and film makers, including Oscar winners Daniel Day-Lewis and Jeremy Irons, abandoned an attempt to visit Sarajevo Saturday after being barred from a U.N. flight to the besieged Bosnian capital. It was the second such refusal in 24 hours and prompted members of the group to claim the British government had vetoed their trip. Britain has denied it is obstructing their attempt to open a film festival starting Saturday in Sarajevo. Vanessa Redgrave, a star of the film *Howard's End*, said they were stopped from boarding a United Nations aid flight at Falconara Air Base near the eastern city of Ancona. "A directive was given by the British government that we should not be permitted to fly," she told Reuters. "I am returning to London and so is Mr. Irons." She said she expected the eight other members of the group would also return to their home countries.

Clinton names Ferraro to U.N. job

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has appointed former Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro of New York to be the U.S. representative on the U.N. Human Rights Commission. Ms. Ferraro, 58, was Walter Mondale's vice presidential running mate on the Democratic ticket in 1984, the first woman nominated for a presidential ticket by a U.S. major party. "In addition to earning her place in our own country's political history," Mr. Clinton said in a statement, "Geraldine Ferraro has been a highly effective voice for the human rights of women around the world."

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Spurred by challenges to President Bill Clinton's authority to send troops abroad, Senate Democrats began a comprehensive review of war-making powers and the role of the U.S. military in the post-Soviet era.

Democrats and Republicans pushed during recent days to curb the president's powers as commander in chief. Immediate restrictions were staved off amid vigorous White House opposition.

Led by majority leader George Mitchell, senators belonging to Mr. Clinton's Democratic Party said Friday it was time for a thorough study of the suitable role for American troops after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"Events in the past week increased my determination to do this so that we're not responding to each individual crisis on an ad hoc basis," Sen. Mitchell said.

The centrepiece of the review will be a re-evaluation of the war powers act, which requires U.S. troops to be withdrawn from hostile situations if Congress does not give approval within 90 days of their arrival.

Since the act passed in 1973 over the objections of Richard Nixon, subsequent presidents have refused to recognise it.

On several occasions, presidents have provided Congress notice of the commitment of U.S. troops before the act's deadlines but said they were doing so voluntarily and not in compliance with that law.

Sen. Mitchell asked the Senate Armed Services, Foreign Relations and Intelligence

Committees to conduct the review and report by spring.

Five years ago, a number of the Democrats at Friday's news conference proposed legislation to revamp the War Powers Act — an effort that proved futile.

This time, with a Democrat in the White House and Republicans calling for changes, the senators are optimistic.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, who had offered the 1988 legislation, said the Soviet Union formerly kept smaller countries in check, limiting civil wars and regional conflicts.

The demise of the superpower has eliminated those restraints, creating more hot spots that require U.S. troops.

Sen. Nunn said a new war powers act needs a "mechanism so that the president consults with the Congress before making these decisions, not after."

Sen. Mitchell said the goal is to deal with the balance between the executive and legislative branches of the government.

Sen. Joseph Biden said Congress has spent too much time discussing the process rather than the more important issue of "whether or not it makes sense to send troops in the first place."

Meanwhile, five former U.S. defence secretaries have voiced strong reservations about the use of U.S. troops to protect other countries.

Stay out of the former Soviet Union, re-examine any troop commitment for Bosnia, step lightly in the Middle East and

be very cautious even near the United States, were suggestions made at a forum of former Defence Department chiefs.

"The United States is not a good peacekeeper," said Donald Rumsfeld, who ran defence from 1975 to 1977 in the Ford administration. He said it's "a bad idea" for U.S. forces to be put under U.N. control. His counterparts from other administrations generally agreed.

The former cabinet members raised worries about various U.S. operations abroad at an annual panel discussion Friday sponsored by the Southern Centre for International Studies of Atlanta, Ga. The forum is being telecast around the world.

The speakers also included James Schlesinger of the Nixon and Ford administrations, Harold Brown from the Carter years, Frank Carlucci of the Reagan administration and Richard Cheney, who helped guide the Gulf war under President George Bush.

All rejected any idea of sending U.S. troops to ensure stability in the former Soviet Union.

"That would be the height of insanity," declared Mr. Carlucci.

Mr. Rumsfeld said it would only bolster anti-Yeltsin forces who think Mr. Yeltsin is America's man.

Mr. Schlesinger said Russia's future was America's No. 1 security problem abroad but added, "the best help we can give them is under the circumstances is not to send troops."

how U.S. troops could help hold Russia together.

Asked by moderator Marvin Kalb if U.S. forces should be sent into the Mideast to monitor a peace accord, Mr. Brown said a limited force might be used in the Golan Heights, land taken by Israel from Syria in 1967, but not elsewhere.

Mr. Cheney said the success of the Gulf war has enhanced Israel's security, but it might be necessary to once again "protect our friends" in the region.

But Mr. Rumsfeld said officials should think "very, very carefully" before committing U.S. forces in the Mideast.

Mr. Brown said U.S. troops should be used in Middle East peacekeeping only if both sides want them.

Some of the former secretaries agreed that air power might have been used to turn back Bosnian Serbs early in the Yugoslav crisis, but that it is probably too late for any kind of outside military intervention.

Mr. Schlesinger said the Clinton administration should not have made a commitment to send 25,000 peacekeepers to Bosnia when peace is achieved but said the commitment may have to be met.

Mr. Brown said the United States should not make such "foolish commitments."

Radio station bans Madonna for remarks

TORONTO (R) — A Canadian radio station has banned Madonna's music because she

shouted "F... Toronto, F... the Blue Jays" at a Philadelphia concert this week during the baseball World Series pitting teams from the two cities. "I'm totally prepared for the rest of my life never to play another Madonna song until she apologises," Tom Rivers, morning disc jockey at CJEZ-FM radio station, said Friday. In the middle of her concert, the 33-year-old entertainer shouted to Philadelphia fans, "F... Toronto, F... the Blue Jays, F... them." Game three of the World Series was held Tuesday night in Philadelphia, with the Toronto Blue Jays defeating the Philadelphia Phillies 10-3.

On Wednesday, the Blue Jays won again, but Philadelphia won Thursday to leave Toronto leading the best-of-seven series 3-2. The Detroit-born material girl's concert was at the Spectrum, a stone's throw from Veterans Stadium where the third game of the series was held Tuesday night. Madonna could not be reached for comment but a spokesman for the Canadian division of her recording company said her comments were not meant to be serious. "It was a joke," said Steve Waxman, national publicity manager for Warner Music Canada. "She loves Toronto. That's why she plays in Toronto."

Madonna's girls show tour is scheduled to hit Montreal on Oct. 23. It played in Toronto on Oct. 11 and 12. "The minute she gets back south of the border she says 'F... Toronto,' disc-jockey Rivers said. "That's the type of thing that's a real slap in the face."

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S. Arabia gets warning for Doha pitch invasion

DOHA (AP) — The Saudi Football Federation was warned Saturday their fans will be barred from the stadium if they invade the field or intimidate fans of a rival team in World Cup Asian qualification matches.

A warning, issued in Doha, comes in advance of Sunday's crucial Iraq-Saudi Arabia match that already has caused serious security concerns for Qatar.

On Friday thousands of Saudi fans invaded the ground, broke chairs and gesticulated at South Korean supporters after a last-gasp goal equalised the match against South Korea 1-1.

"We have told the Saudis that if this happens again, all their fans will be barred from the stadium in future games," a FIFA official told the Associated Press.

A formal statement will be issued in Zurich, the headquarters of FIFA. The FIFA is also likely to fine Saudi Arabia for damaging Qatari property, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iraq, with a fair chance to qualify for the 24-nation World Cup finals in the U.S. after their 2-1 victory over traditional foe Iran Friday, has already set the tone for Saturday's encounter.

"Our implacable enemy, the Saudis must be crushed before a television audience of millions around the world," the Al Baath Arriyadhi Sports

newspaper in Baghdad said before the tournament.

Following Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, a massive U.S.-led multinational force had assembled in Saudi Arabia to protect the kingdom and drove Iraq out of Kuwait in February 1991. Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil producer, also funded the multinational forces' drive against Iraq.

On Saturday in Qatar, thousands of Saudi supporters were arriving and organisers said at least 25,000 was expected to watch the game Sunday, which kicks off at 5 p.m. (1400 GMT).

Iraq must win the match to retain hopes of advancing to the finals in the United States.

"This has to stop," said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the FIFA's Asian Football Confederation of the Friday's incident when 10,000 Saudi fans, excited after their team's last-gasp equaliser, invaded the ground. They traded insults with about 1,000 South Korean supporters, but the situation was checked from taking an ugly turn by Qatari riot police.

Friday's incident was more of an outburst of jubilation by the Saudis, for whom soccer is very dear. But on stake Sunday is Iraq, the enemy No. 1 of the Saudis.

"We have told the organisers that all precautions must be taken to stop repetition of Friday's incident," Velappan, of Malaysia, said.

Karpov, Timman draw game 17

JAKARTA (R) — Anatoly Karpov of Russia survived extreme pressure from Jan Timman of the Netherlands to draw the 17th game of the official World Chess Championship Saturday after 33 moves and almost five hours of play.

Karpov now leads the 24-game match by 11 points to six and needs only one and a half more points to regain the World title he lost to compatriot Garry Kasparov in 1985.

After winning the three previous games, Karpov did not seem at all upset at finally conceding a draw to his demoralised opponent.

"This was a very important game for the opening theory of this variation," said a smiling Karpov after the game. "Of course Timman had pressure, serious pressure, but no clear way to gain the advantage."

Timman was also pleased after scoring his first draw since Game 13. He immediately left the stage to embrace his wife, Ilse, who had just arrived in Indonesia from Amsterdam.

Experts agreed the game had been one of the most interesting in the match, which began in the Netherlands and moved to Indonesia for the second half.

Timman, controlling the white pieces, began the game in an aggressive mood, answering Karpov's solid Caro-Kann defence with the ambitious advance variation.

The former world champion took up Timman's challenge, entering the sharpest line of

the opening and winning a pawn.

However Timman's powerful knight gave white excellent counterchances and none of the experts watching the game was prepared to predict a likely outcome.

"It's too complicated for me," commented a baffled Ulf Andersson, one of Timman's grandmaster assistants.

With both kings exposed, Karpov decided that the safest policy would be to try to reach an endgame by exchanging queens.

Timman tried to avoid the queen exchange to no avail and Karpov succeeded in reaching a simplified position where a draw seemed the most likely result.

Yet Timman refused to accept that his attack was over. He harassed Karpov's king and refused a chance to draw by perpetual check.

After 33 moves Timman, handicapped by a weak pawn, was forced to accept Karpov's offer of a draw.

"This game shows Anatoly's experience in defending the Caro-Kann," commented a relieved Karpov aide, U.S. grandmaster Ron Henley.

Karpov and Timman are playing for the official World Chess Championship because Kasparov, the world number one, and Nigel Short, his English challenger, broke away from the World Chess Federation (FIDE) to organise a more lucrative contest in London.

The rebel world title match concluded Thursday with Kasparov winning 12½-7½ and claiming to be the true world champion, but FIDE maintains that the winner of the Jakarta match will be the legitimate titleholder.

The next game between Karpov and Timman will be Monday with Karpov having the advantage of the white pieces. The winner of the match will be the first player to score 12½ points.

Kasparov, newly crowned as the first Professional Chess Association (PCA) world champion, now faces a greater challenge of turning the fledgling body he helped found into a major force in top-flight chess.

The game established Kasparov as clearly the world's strongest player. To many chess experts, he is the best player in the history of the game.

But his toughest task will be using his influence to gain credibility for the new-born PCA, which he and Short established earlier this year after a split with FIDE, in charge of the world championship since 1948.

FIDE is the second largest sporting organisation in the world after soccer authority FIFA, and has a comprehensive world-wide qualifying system.

Kasparov won the FIDE title in 1985 against arch-rival Karpov and defended it against him in 1986, 1987 and 1990.

Kasparov and Short were outlasted by FIDE and stripped of their world rankings

following their founding of the PCA after a bitter dispute over the venue and terms of their title contest.

The champion has been in strident conflict with FIDE, and its controversial President Florencio Campomanes, for most of his career, and has consistently questioned its ability to handle professional players and negotiations with major sponsors.

The PCA scored its first publicity victory when the rival FIDE contest, now resumed in the Indonesian capital Jakarta, floundered in financial chaos.

FIDE announced that their official match between Karpov and Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman would have a prize fund of £1.8 million (\$2.7 million), even higher than the London match.

But the duel between two men eliminated by Short earlier in the FIDE cycle suffered real credibility problems.

The organisers of the first half of the tournament in the Netherlands announced they had failed to raise a penny towards their half of the prize fund.

Then the organisers of the second half in Oman withdrew completely, leaving the match homeless and penniless.

After a three-week delay, a frantic search for a match sponsor resulted in the contest moving to Jakarta, where FIDE is guaranteeing only a minimum prize of one million Swiss francs (\$700,000).

Kasparov insists there is no danger that he will become a



World Chess champion Gary Kasparov (right) shakes hands with his challenger, Britain's Nigel Short, after retaining his World Professional Chess Association championship title in London (AFP photo).

reclusive champion, and promises to defend his title against the next PCA challenger in 1995.

Sceptical observers await confirmation that the PCA has the framework and cash to run a successful qualifying cycle.

But the organisation has promised to reveal specifics later this month in London, after announcements of major sponsors and a full calendar of elite events.

The PCA title eliminator, which will reduce 50 title hopefuls to seven candidates joining Short in a series of knock-out matches, is already scheduled for late December in the Dutch town Groningen.

Frederic Friedel, an influential chess entrepreneur, told Reuters that the funds for this event, to be sponsored by microchip giant Intel, were already in the PCA account.

Prost on pole for Japan Grand Prix

SUZUKA, Japan (R) — World champion Alain Prost claimed the 33rd pole position of his career Saturday when he came out on top after an incident-packed final qualifying session for Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix.

The 38-year-old Frenchman, who clinched his fourth world title at the Portuguese Grand Prix last month, had to fight off a series of challenges from other drivers before claiming the prime grid position in his Williams.

He eventually clocked a best time of one minute and 37.154 seconds to eclipse the best effort of his oldest and greatest rival, Brazilian Ayrton Senna, in a McLaren by just one-tenth of a second.

Senna will start Sunday's 53-lap race alongside Prost at the head of the grid in a line-up which revived memories of their past infamous tangles on the Suzuka circuit. In both 1989 and 1990 the pair collided in controversial circumstances.

Prost's pole extended the Williams team sequence this year to 15 pole positions in succession and keeps alive their hopes of a record 16 in succession.

Prost's Williams team-mate, Briton Damon Hill, ended up sixth fastest after being the quickest early on and then

spinning off at the hairpin. Finland's Mika Hakkinen continued his fine form by taking third spot on the grid in the second McLaren ahead of German Michael Schumacher in a Benetton.

Austrian Gerhard Berger was fifth fastest in a Ferrari. But at one time looked on course to claim his first pole for two years when he topped the time with only 12 minutes remaining.

The session had an eventful start when Italian Andrea De Cesaris crashed his Tyrrell and the session was red-flagged to a halt, but it resumed after a 10-minute break. De Cesaris was not injured in the accident.

Several drivers slid off the dusty circuit, including De Cesaris, Briton Johnny Herbert in a Lotus, Frenchman Jean Alesi in a Ferrari, Japanese Aguri Suzuki in a Footwork, Hill, Brazilian Roberto Barrichello in a Jordan and Italian Pierluigi Martini in a Minardi.

It was a surprise that no one was even slightly injured and the session was stopped only once.

The battle for the leading positions on the grid was one of the most keenly-fought of the year and was clearly enjoyed by the leading drivers.

Prost, whose 33rd pole enabled him to draw level with Scot Jim Clark in the record books, second only behind Senna who claimed a record 61 pole positions, was relaxed and smiling after the session.

He dismissed suggestions that the front row of the grid could lead to a scrap between him and Senna again at the first corner. "No, I don't think we will have any problems. Anyway, it could not be worse than 1990 could it?"

Prost added: "We always knew it would be difficult at this track. It has fast corners and changing conditions and it is bumpy and for our car this is not good."

"But I enjoyed it today. It was fun and was nice to see people smiling in the pit-lane for the first time this year. It will be a close race with five or six cars so close and tactics are going to be very important."

"I hope Mika (Hakkinen) does not make the same start he did in Estoril," he joked, referring to the Finn's charge at the Portuguese race when he almost pushed Prost aside.

Prost, who announced last month that he will retire from Formula 1 at the end of the year, said he had been approached by McLaren boss Ron Dennis but had stressed

he was not interested in reversing his decision.

"He is a professional and we are still friends and he just wanted to know what was in my mind — I told him," he said.

Senna also said he had no worries about the downhill rush to the first corner where he and Prost collided in 1990. He said he believed also that he could have taken pole position if he had not been held up on his best lap by the Tyrrell of Ukyo Katayama of Japan.

"I came up behind the Tyrrell and it was on a crest of a hill and I was not sure if he had seen me or not. I could not keep my foot down and I had to off and it was a shame. I think we lost pole there."

"But at least we are on the front row. It could have been worse. I stopped and pulled up after that because the team said I might run out of fuel."

"It was a calculated risk and I think it was the best strategy, but I had traffic. That's just the way it goes."

Hakkinen said he was disappointed not to have done better, but put it down to his lack of experience. "I will have to see what Ayrton did," he said, somewhat tongue in cheek, after the session.

King's Theatre becomes 1994 derby favourite

DONCASTER, England (R) — Trainer Henry Cecil won the Group 1 Racing Post Trophy for the 10th time Saturday as promising colt King's Theatre galloped to the top of the betting lists for the 1994 Epsom Derby.

Hills made the colt 16-1 clear favourite after a comfortable one length success for jockey Willie Ryan.

Starting at 9-2, King's Theatre stormed clear of 11-8 favourite Fairy Heights, ridden by Cash Asmussen, and looked distinct classic material.

Cecil, who first won the mile (1.6 km) test back in 1967, said: "He's a lovely horse who likes being up there with the pace and gets the trip well. I would see him as a derby horse rather than a 2000 Guineas prospect."

Cecil's other representative Bude, partnered by Pat Eddery, finished a further three lengths back in third place.

"The other fellow ran very well, considering it was only the second race of his life. I'm delighted with them both," said Cecil.

King's Theatre's victory lifted Cecil past Richard Hannan at the top of the trainers' table. He is bidding to land the title for the 10th time.

Winning jockey Ryan said:

"He stays well and there are not many better mile horses around than this fellow. I'm pleased to be associated with him, and I've always felt he'll make an even better three-year-old."

Reference Point, Epsom Derby winner in 1987, won the Racing Post Trophy as a two-year-old in 1986.

Meanwhile Irish classic winner Baratheas is to join the British strike force for horse racing's Breeders' Cup "world championship" in California in two weeks time.

Newmarket trainer Luca Cumani gave the green light for the venture after the Irish 2,000 Guineas hero pleased in a newmarket workout Saturday. The colt will contest the Breeders' Cup mile at Santa Anita.

"He worked very well this morning and is in good form," said Cumani.

The trainer is likely to ship the colt out with the French challengers as he explained: "The horses from Britain are flying out the previous Wednesday."

"I believe that is too late. It gives no time to put any problem right. So Baratheas is likely to go to Paris to join the French horses going to California on the previous Saturday or Sunday."

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE				
Following are the results of games played Friday, Oct. 22 and the standings of the teams up to that date.				
SENIORS				
Foxboro	4	VS	Austrian Airlines	1
Amer. Kitch	2	VS	Champions	0
MIDS				
Intervec	4	VS	Peugeot	1
Al Hikma	4	VS	ASC	2
JUNIORS II				
Junghans	0	VS	Nash/Ebb	0
Milano	1	VS	Pepsi	0
JUNIOR I				
UPS	1	VS	La Cicogna	0
Modern Sch.	1	VS	Al Zay	0
STANDINGS				
SENIORS				
Austrian Airlines				11
American Kitch				11
Foxboro				7
Champions				4
MIDS				
Intervec				18
Peugeot				7
Al Hikma				7
ASC				2
JUNIOR II				
Milano				13
Junghans				11
Nash/Ebb				7
Pepsi				3
JUNIORS I				
La Cicogna				11
Modern Schools				8
UPS				6
AL ZAY				6

GOREN BRIDGE				
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI ©1993 Tropic Time Services, Inc.				
THE TIME IS NOW				
East-West vulnerable. South deals.				
NORTH				
♠ 7 6 3				
♥ A 5 4				
♦ Q 10 9 7 6				
♣ A 9 7 5				
EAST				
♠ J 10 8 4 2				
♥ A 2				
♦ Q 10				
♣ 9 8 7 2				
SOUTH				
♠ K 8 3				
♥ K J 10 9 8				
♦ K 6 3				
♣ K 2				
The bidding:				
South	West	North	East	
1	2	3	4	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
Opening lead: Queen of ♣				
Bridge is sometimes a race between sides to establish tricks. The winner, in the words of the Southern Civil War Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, is the one who "gits there fastest with the mostest!"				
The bidding was straightforward enough. Since the only strong bid over an opponent's takeout double is a redouble, North was able to show a strong distributional hand by leading the way to game, thereby buying the contract.				
West attacked with the queen of diamonds. There were three un-				

Tonya Harding is superb on the ice

DALLAS (AP) — Tonya Harding believes this is her time. It certainly looked that way Friday night at Skate America.

Harding, the 1991 U.S. champion who has struggled ever since — on and off the ice — won the technical programme with a commanding performance. She was first with five judges and promptly deserved to sweep all seven.

"I do think this was the best original programme I've done in my skating career," Harding said.

Harding, whose problems have included disappointing performances at the 1992 Olympics and World Championships and this year's nationals — as well as marital troubles, financial woes and coaching instability — promised a strong performance. She delivered with a terrific triple lutz-double toe loop combination and an impressive flying approach to a sit spin.

"I'm the underdog and that's just the way I like it," Harding said.

If she continues skating as she did Friday, the 22-year-old

from Portland, Ore., won't be an underdog for long.

"I felt I had to go out and prove I'm the Tonya Harding everyone believes in and that they should believe in me and I think they do now."

World champion Oksana Baiul, the 15-year-old sensation from Ukraine, popped her combination jump, doing only a double lutz-double toe. It cost her just enough to drop her to second heading into Saturday's free skate, worth two-thirds of the total score.

Baiul, dressed like a black swan, received all 5.8s and 5.9s for presentation. But her technical marks didn't measure up to Harding's, nor did her overall performance.

It was Baiul's first competition in the United States and only her third major event outside Ukraine.

Third place in the technical programme went to Surya Bonaly of France, whose footwork and spins have improved enormously since she placed second at the worlds in March. Bonaly, winner of the last three European championships, also did a nice triple

lutz-double toe combination.

Michelle Kwan, the 13-year-old rising star from Los Angeles, was sixth despite a clean programme. Lisa Ervin of Lakewood, Ohio was seventh.

Harding is the only American woman to land a triple axel in competition, but that 3½-revolution jump is not part of her repertoire for Skate America.

"We've chosen not to use it in the first competition of the year," Harding said. "We'd like to get things rolling under our feet."

She hinted that the triple axel will be back for the nationals in January.

"I was the first woman to do

it and I can do it, so why not do it?" she said.

The pairs gold went, as expected, to Russians Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov, the third-ranked couple in the world. They also won the technical programme and, on Friday night, received a 5.9 and five 5.8s for artistry.

Kyoko Ina and Jason Dungjen of the United States were second. Ina, of Englewood Cliffs, N.J., and Dungjen, of Troy, Mich., have been together for less than two years.

Another American pair, Karen Courtland of Whippany, N.J., and Todd Reynolds of Houston, were third in a mediocre field.

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Christopher tells Moscow to open political process

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told the Russian government Saturday it could lose some U.S. support unless it opens its political processes to dissidents.

The government has nothing to fear from a free press, he said in a speech. Even in times of intense political struggle, "the imperative of civil order must be reconciled with free expression," he said.

Mr. Christopher's strong endorsement of allowing dissent and open debate came at a time when Russia is preparing to elect a new parliament. The Yeltsin government has banned about a dozen hard-line and nationalist newspapers and six political parties.

"Even when battling the forces of reaction, true democrats have nothing to fear from a free press," the secretary said in a speech to the Academy of the National Economy.

He then flew to Kazakhstan to urge leaders of the Central Asian nation to give up more than 1,000 nuclear warheads, as promised.

He will make a similar request in Ukraine on Monday. Belarus, the third former Soviet republic apart from Russia that has nuclear weapons, is adhering to its pledge to dismantle the long-range weapons.

President Yeltsin told Mr. Christopher on Friday that he had acted against "fascistic" elements in quashing the parties and media.

Mr. Christopher said the key factor in persuading Congress to support aid was Russia's commitment to democratic reform as well as a free-market system.

"Without those commitments, the chances of that kind of support would be substantially diminished," he said.

Mr. Christopher told Russia's leaders that relations with the United States would suffer. "I don't want to say that in any threatening sense," he said. "I simply say it as a description of reality."

In the speech, Mr. Christopher said the Clinton administration was prepared to provide technical assistance for the Dec. 12 parliamentary elections, if asked. He said that would involve such assistance as voter education and poll-watching.

Later, U.S. officials expanded that to include conferences on political parties and political training. This would be done through four American non-governmental organizations, including the AFL-CIO labour federation's Free Trade Institute, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Democratic and Republican parties.

"Any assistance we would mobilise at Russia would be politically neutral, non-partisan and available to all participating political parties and groups," Mr. Christopher said.

At a news conference Friday, Mr. Christopher said his visit should not be interpreted as support for Mr. Yeltsin's slate, but rather for the process of reforms being carried out by the Russian leader.

He told the academy that Mr. Yeltsin's suspension of parliament Sept. 21 was a response to "exceptional circumstances." Both the parliament and constitution were vestiges of the communist past, locking movement to democratic reforms, he said.

Mr. Christopher said the United States does not easily support the suspension of parliaments. In Yaroslavl, Mr. Yeltsin said deputies in Russia's new federal assembly will decide if a presidential election set for June will go ahead.

Mr. Yeltsin, asked by journalists whether the poll would be held, replied: "That will be up to the federal assembly to decide."

The Russian leader announced last month that a presidential election would be held June 12, cutting short his mandate by two years.

Ghali, Meles differ on Somali peace bid

ADDIS ABABA (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi discussed a political solution in Somalia Saturday but an Ethiopian official said they did not agree.

"There existed a conceptual difference between the position of Ethiopia and that of Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on the Somali reconciliation," said Tekeda Alemu, Ethiopian deputy minister for foreign affairs.

Mr. Tekeda did not elaborate on the dispute but he said Ethiopia thought all Somali groups should take part.

Dr. Ghali wants to arrange a peace conference that excludes faction leader Mohammad Farah Aidede, the man the United Nations holds responsible for killing 24 Pakistani troops in an ambush in the Somali capital Mogadishu in June.

The U.N. office in Somalia issued an arrest warrant for General Aidede after the ambush and says the warrant is still valid.

But Mr. Tekeda said: "If our aim is to conduct a successful reconciliation and to bring peace in Somalia, we believe that no one group should be excluded from that process."

Dr. Ghali told reporters that his two-hour meeting with Meles was "useful and positive."

"We will continue to do our best to gain momentum in favour of national reconciliation (in Somalia) with the collaboration of all countries involved in the peace process," Dr. Ghali said before flying to Egypt, his native country.

Mr. Meles has a mandate from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and leaders from the Horn of Africa to seek a peaceful political resolution to the Somali crisis. He enjoys the confidence and trust of most Somali faction leaders.

Mr. Meles brokered the last reconciliation talks in March. But the clans and political groups ignored its recommendations and hundreds of people have since been killed in fighting.

At that meeting the Somali groups agreed to ceasefire, and to set up a transitional council

to rule until pluralist elections in 1994.

Most of the recent fighting has been between the U.N. force and Gen. Aidede's supporters in southern Mogadishu.

Officials from Ethiopia and neighbouring Djibouti helped arrange a meeting between U.S. special envoy Robert Oakley and elders from the Somalia National Alliance (SNA), the umbrella group chaired by Gen. Aidede.

The meeting led to the release 10 days ago of a captured U.S. pilot and a Nigerian soldier.

On Friday Dr. Ghali made a secretive visit to Mogadishu despite military advice. He did not meet any Somali faction leaders, saying he did not have enough time. (See page 2)

In Mogadishu, a U.N. spokesman urged a Somali faction opposed to Gen. Aidede Saturday not to hold a peace demonstration because of a risk of violence.

"If even good intentions could produce confrontations and disturbances. This is something that (the U.N. peacekeeping operation) would not want to see happen," the spokesman, Farouk Mawlawi, told reporters.

The peace demonstration set for Monday was planned by Ali Mahdi Mohammad's northern Mogadishu Hawiye clan. An Aidede follower said there would be clashes if it takes place.

Italian U.N. peacekeeping troops shot and killed a Somali man after he pulled out a gun and fired at them, another U.N. spokesman said.

The Friday night incident did not appear to be related to demonstrations against the secretive, lightning visit to Mogadishu by Dr. Ghali, he added.

Captain Tim McDavitt said the Italian patrol stopped the man about 10 kilometres north of Mogadishu because he was carrying a bag that appeared to have a rifle in it.

When the soldiers questioned him he dropped the bag, pulled a German G-3 rifle from it and fired towards them. The Italians returned fire and killed him.



Police and rescue workers try to uncover victims trapped under the debris of a building that partially collapsed when a powerful bomb exploded in the Protestant Shankill road of Belfast Saturday.

At least 9 killed in blast in Belfast

BELFAST (Agencies) — The outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombed the former headquarters of Northern Ireland's largest Protestant paramilitary organisation, killing at least nine people and injuring 50, rescuers and witnesses said.

Within minutes of the explosion, the IRA said in a state-

ment to a local radio station that it aimed the attack at a "UFF leadership meeting."

UFF (Ulster Freedom Fighters) is a cover name used by the outlawed Ulster Defence Association (UDA), a Protestant paramilitary organisation, for its violent attacks. The British government declared the UDA illegal in April 1992,

but local residents said the organisation has quietly continued to use its former headquarters.

The IRA, supported by a minority of Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland, frequently targets Protestant paramilitaries in its bid to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Leftists assail government

By Aileen Bannayan
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Two leftist political parties Saturday accused the government of election irregularities and threatened to boycott the country's first multi-party polls in nearly four decades.

The threat echoed a similar stand adopted by the Kingdome's powerful Islamic fundamentalists, led by the Muslim Brotherhood movement, who accuse the government of campaigning against them to undermine them in the run-up to the Nov. 8 polls.

The Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party and the Jordanian People's Democratic Party also announced that they were fielding six candidates on a joint platform in the elections.

Addressing a press conference, leaders of the two parties assailed a government ban on election rallies in public places and said that restricted their campaigning.

"Such practices prompt us to suspect that democracy in Jordan is the wrong track," said Tayseer Zibiri, secretary-general of the People's Democratic Party, which groups former members of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Mr. Zibiri and unity party chief Azmi Khawaja, a former activist of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also based in the Syrian capital, claimed that voters' lists had been inflated.

They called on the Interior Ministry to adopt swift action to rectify these "discrepancies" and warned that their parties would reconsider their participation in the polls.

Interior Minister Saleh Hamad rejected the charges in state media reports and said the government was committed to holding "fair and free elections in an atmosphere of total democracy."

"If we feel that the elections will not be free and fair then we have the option of boycotting the polls on the morning of Nov. 8," said Mr. Zibiri.

Similar accusations were levelled against the government earlier this week by the Brotherhood's political arm, the Islamic Action Front, which cited "discrimination" by the Interior Ministry.

It said the government rejected Front applications to hold public rallies and that the Education Ministry has transferred six schoolteachers who are front members in southern Jordan in a bid to lessen their influence in favour of the party in the elections in that constituency.

While the Brotherhood had 22 seats in the outgoing parliament, the leftists counted only a handful of representatives who, on occasions, came together to oppose government policies.

Both are fierce opponents of the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process which began in Spain two years ago.

The Islamists reject any dealings with Israel and advocate the elimination of the Jewish state. The leftists oppose Arab-Israeli negotiations, but for a different reason: They say the talks fall short of fulfilling aspirations for Palestinian statehood.

Prosecution rejects defence complaints against court

AMMAN (AP) — The prosecution in an alleged assassination plot against King Hussein Saturday rejected defence contentions that the State Security Court was interfering with witnesses.

In a two-page document read out at the military tribunal, Prosecutor Muhammad Hijazi, an army major, countered the defence assertion that the court was favouring the prosecution.

Maj. Hijazi urged defence lawyers to "fear God and ensure that they defend the accused."

He also defended the court and said that the no-jury tribunal was justly dealing with the case.

The prosecutor was replying to defence charges in his capacity as "defender of the public's rights." The court also is entitled to respond to the charges. It is expected to do that at a later session.

On Thursday, the six-man defence team complained in a memorandum that the court interfered with their witnesses and that the court clerk failed to record the full testimony of witnesses.

It also asked the court to bar state-run news media from attending the proceedings because of what the defence described as biased coverage of the seven-week-old trial.

Ten people are being tried at the military court on charges of plotting to open fire at King Hussein during a June 26 graduation ceremony at Muta University, a military academy in South Jordan.

The defendants, two of them being tried in absentia, are also charged with plotting to topple the government and rewrite the constitution through "violent means," and affiliation

with an illegal organisation, Hezb Al Tahrir, or Islamic Liberation Party.

Hezb Al Tahrir, established in 1951, is a puritan Islamic group that does not recognise any of the existing Arab governments and advocates the establishment of an Islamic caliphate-style state.

Five of the accused are military cadets at Muta, another is a lieutenant in the Royal Escort Unit and the four others, including the two at large, are described as Hezb Al Tahrir leaders who recruited the students to carry out the assassination plot.

They were arrested in mid-April. None of the defendants or witnesses can be identified by name in media reports under standing orders from the court.

During Saturday's four-hour hearing, the court heard from two witnesses, relatives of the lieutenant, that the defendant enjoyed good health prior to his arrest in April but bore visible signs of torture when they saw him after four months in detention.

Another witness, a prison doctor, produced medical records and testified that he had examined the defendants when they were transferred to a military jail in August, but had found no traces of torture except a peeling of skin on their feet.

He said that could have happened as a result of beating or pacing for extended periods. The defence has charged that the accused were subjected to "heavy physical and psychological pressure" in order to extract confessions.

The court adjourned until Tuesday, when the defence will produce more witnesses.

Israel to release 760 detainees

(Continued from page 1)
The assassinations were the result of a conspiracy hatched beyond the Arab World.

The Arabic daily Al Nahar quoted a Gaza preacher as saying the PLO chief himself was responsible for Mr. Safawi's death.

Mr. Safawi had failed to take

adequate precautions after the killings of Fateh leaders Mohammad Abu Shaaban and Maher Ikhal, preacher Nazir Luqa was quoted as telling worshippers.

Internal PLO tensions have also emerged in the West Bank refugee camp of Balata, a stronghold of support for Fateh.

IAF says its fears not allayed

(Continued from page 1)

The front would lose the support of its constituency if it did not use its parliamentary majority to deliver on its promises to the voters. In both cases, they say, the IAF would be the big loser and hence is its strategy to limit its presence in the House to a sizeable representation.

The Muslim Brotherhood, whose candidates are contesting the polls on the IAF ticket, won 23 seats in the previous Parliament and its supporters won ten others.

Observers do not expect the Islamists to repeat the electoral gains of 1989 when the bloc voting system allowed them to hold alliance with independent candidates and improve their performance in the elections.

They say the introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula has weakened large and well-organised groups by stripping them of the ability to strike deals and form alliances through which they would get the second or third votes of voters who had as many votes

as the number of parliamentary seats allotted for their constituencies.

IAF leaders had opposed the electoral changes but argued that their opposition to the new law was rooted in the "undemocratic" way in which the changes were introduced rather than in their fear that the new rules would work to their disadvantage. Now they claim that their performance in the polls could be affected by the alleged government pressure on them.

The government has rejected the IAF charges saying that all its actions were within the limits of the law. Minister of Interior Hamad was Thursday quoted as saying that the ban on holding rallies is enforced on all candidates and that no one party is targeted. Petra quoted the minister as saying that the government treats all parties equally.

"The law is implemented in a fair way on all," the minister said.

COLUMN 100000

What makes Clinton sleepy is 'lack of sleep'

WASHINGTON (AP) — If President Bill Clinton seemed somewhat drowsy at a high-tech event Friday he had a logical explanation. Unwittingly speaking into an open microphone before a series of TV interviews, Mr. Clinton rehashed baseball's late-night World Series and lamented a shortage of sleep. After landing the Philadelphia Phillies' Curt Schilling as a "strength pitcher" for holding the Toronto Blue Jays scoreless in nine innings Thursday night, the president declared, "I need a nap, guys." "You said that last night, too," a woman commented. "And I didn't get one," the president shot back. "What makes me sleepy is the lack of sleep," he added. Killing time between his first and second TV interviews, Mr. Clinton got caught on microphone again, this time grousing about his chair. When the interview finally began, the first question was, "Did I hear you have a lousy seat you're sitting in?" "Yeah, it's uncomfortable. I like stiff-backed chairs but this is sort of weird," the president answered. Mr. Clinton seemed to have perked up by the time he strolled across the street to have lunch with members of his cabinet at Blair House, the presidential guest quarters. There are eating places in the White House but President Secretary Dee Dee Myers said Mr. Clinton wanted to lunch in a more informal setting.

Pair get life terms in Florida torching case

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (R) — Two white Florida men who taunted a black man with racial slurs and set him on fire were sentenced to life in prison. Charles Rourke, 33, was sentenced to life for attempted first-degree murder, plus 40 years for armed robbery and armed kidnapping. Mark Kohut, 27, was sentenced to life for attempted first-degree murder plus 27 years for kidnapping and robbery. A third accomplice, 18-year-old Jeffrey Pellett, who had cooperated with prosecutors and testified against the assailants, was sentenced to 6½ years in prison for his role in the attack on Christopher Wilson. He pleaded guilty to a federal carjacking charge. Rourke and Kohut abducted Wilson, 32, early on New Year's Day as he stopped to buy a newspaper at a Tampa shopping centre. They forced him at gunpoint to drive to a remote field, where they poured gasoline over him and set him on fire.

4 Florida teens indicted in U.K. tourist death

MONTICELLO, Fla. (R) — A grand jury Friday indicted four Florida teenagers, one of them only 13 years old, on first degree murder and attempted murder charges for the highway murder of a British tourist. The four will be charged as adults in the murder of British tourist Gary Colley, 34, at a Florida highway rest stop on Sept. 14, his girlfriend Margaret Ann Jagger was shot and injured in what was apparently a botched robbery attempt. No trial date was immediately set. First degree murder suspects are not eligible for bail. The state will "vigorously pursue" the death penalty in the case, prosecutor Mike Schneider said. But courts have generally held that teens under age 16 cannot face the death penalty, and Mr. Schneider did not specify whether he would seek it for all the suspects, aged 13 to 16. Attorney Greg Cummings said it would be "preposterous" to seek the death penalty for his 13-year-old client, who stands barely 4½ feet (1.37 metres) tall. He also maintains his client was not at the crime scene.

China's Deng is a comparative youngster

PEKING (R) — China's 89-year-old paramount leader Deng Xiaoping turns out to be a comparative youngster. The official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday that China's oldest man is Gong Laifa, who still tills the land in southern Guizhou province at age 131. The oldest woman is 122-year-old Kong Ying, who still goes to a nearby hill to collect firewood and helps with household chores at her home in Guangdong province.

Composition of self-rule bodies expected to reveal PLO approach

From Wafa Amr in Tunis

THE PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) will announce the formation and composition of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) that would be set up in Gaza and Jericho, and the economic authority Palestine Emergency Development and Reconstruction Authority (PEDRA) by the end of this month, PLO officials said.

Officials said the formation of the PNA and PEDRA will be indicators of the PLO's restructuring and transformation from a revolution in exile to a technocrat body inside the occupied territories. They said the names of Palestinians appointed in these two bodies will signal whether the PLO leadership was accommodating to changes brought about by the PLO-Israel accord, and the degree of response to the requirements of the new realities.

The formation of these two authorities, particularly the PNA, has been the most pressing and complicated issue for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Officials said by the appointment of members of the political and economic bodies, Arafat was faced with the challenge of avoiding factional differences and internal disputes in the ongoing "power struggle" inside the PLO over a share in the future Palestinian authority.

PLO officials consider the mainstream Fateh faction, the largest PLO group led by Arafat, as the PNA's ruling political party. Other factions, such as FIDA led by PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo and the Palestinian People's Party led by Bashir Barghouti are seeking a share in the Palestinian authority. Both Fateh partners to the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid in 1991, the two have been seeking agreements that would guarantee their participation in future arrangements inside the occupied territories. But Arafat has so far refrained from committing himself to any prior agreements.

"Arafat is facing a dilemma by trying to make a balance between the insiders and outsiders in the ongoing battle for positions, but I believe he will appease the insiders and focus less on the outside," a senior PLO official said. "However, loyalty to him would probably be his first consideration."

Most PLO officials said the PLO would remain in its present form in exile even after the establishment of the PNA and the actual move of some PLO leaders to the occupied territories.

"The PLO must remain until a Palestinian state is established because of what it politically represents for the Palestinian people, but it must be completely restructured," said PLO official Jamil Helal.

Helal said the PLO has to change from its present "unorganised" form to an institutionalised organisation.

"The PLO institutions should not be run by individuals, but should function democratically since we have shifted from the stage of being a liberation movement to a phase of the building of a state," Helal said.

"The old mentality has to change," said another PLO official.

The general Palestinian mood in Tunis is one of demoralisation, loss and uncertainty of the future. No-one knows where his or her whereabouts would be after January, when the Israeli forces are scheduled to withdraw from Gaza Strip and Jericho and the PLO leadership move to these territories to assume responsibilities.

The PLO's financial crisis has hit at almost every Palestinian family in Tunis. Many families live in misery for not being able to feed their children for days, and others have no money to buy medicine or pay rents. Some feel that since the PLO-Israel agreement was signed, those Palestinians living in Tunis would be forgotten.

Many who were working full time in PLO offices and knew no other jobs, are now expected to find other sources of income and fend for themselves.

Officials complained from the slow transition of the PLO. They said Arafat was carefully choosing the names of future leaders.

"Unfortunately, choosing names of members of PEDRA and the National Authority continues to be based on factional representation," Executive Committee member Suleiman Najjab said.

Najjab said since factional interests and considerations outweigh expertise and skills, Palestinians who have the right qualifications to carry out the duties of reconstructing and building the Palestinian entity would be excluded and discouraged.

"In my opinion, this attitude is responsible for the estrangement that thousands of Palestinian intellectuals and scientists inside and outside the occupied territories feel," he said. "We don't merely need economic infrastructure, we need political infrastructure as well."

ANALYSIS

Many PLO officials said Arafat's immediate concern is securing funds to run the Palestinian authority inside the occupied territories. Without sufficient funds, it was doubtful how much leverage the PLO would have over political and economic decisions inside the occupied territories and in the implementation of the PLO-Israel accord.

They have complained, together with Israel and the international community of the slow process of the PLO's transition and from delay in forming PEDRA and the PNA. Some Western diplomats said they believed that the PLO was not prepared yet to assume responsibilities in Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Palestinian economist Youssef Sayigh said Arafat approved the formation of PEDRA on Sept. 15, two days after the signing of the PLO-Israel accord, but the delay in the actual formation of the political and economic authorities reflected the PLO leadership's worries that such bodies could possibly weaken the PLO's grip

on the decision-making process and would confiscate the PLO's financial independence by subjecting the emerging Palestinian entity to donors' dictates.

"There have been political and economic considerations in the formation of PEDRA and political and economic reasons for the delay," Dr. Sayigh said. "The PLO's Executive Committee probably fears that these bodies could form a state-within-a-state and would be left without full authority."

"In order to avoid this, the PLO leadership approved the formation of a higher economic and social council presided by Arafat himself that would meet twice a year and would direct PEDRA, but there would be no political intervention in the functions of PEDRA," Sayigh said.

PEDRA would choose development projects for the occupied territories, implement and supervise the implementation and follow up with donors for funding and evaluation, Sayigh said.

He said an internal auditing body will be set up within the PEDRA structure, in addition to the appointment of an auditor from outside the occupied territories.

He said that a list of names of economic experts from inside and outside the occupied territories has been submitted to the PLO chairman for approval, but no decision has been taken yet.

The PLO chairman's foremost concern has been to guarantee the running costs for administering the occupied territories, and for security and police.

Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said the French government has promised the PLO that it would push for European participation in securing cash funds for the PLO to enable it to administer the occupied territories during the interim period.

Other PLO officials said the PNA and PEDRA would be named and announced by the end of this month so that implementation of the PLO-Israel accord would be carried out as scheduled in the agreement.